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CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

# The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms Globally

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## Cayman Islands



**How lawyers are ranked**

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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**Corporate & Finance**

| Corporate & Finance  |
|--|
| Leading Firms  |
| Band 1   |
| Maples Group   |
| Walkers  |
| Band 2   |
| Appleby  |
| Mourant  |
| Ogier  |
| Band 3   |
| Carey Olsen  |
| Conyers  |
| Band 4   |
| Campbells  |
| Harneys  |
| <small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>                    |
| <small>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>                          |
| <small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small> |

**Band 1**

**Maples Group**

**What the team is known for** Maples Group has a highly distinguished transactional team with a remarkable market share in the Cayman Islands. The firm possesses expertise in M&A and private equity as well as takeovers, securitisations, note issuances and IPOs. Its deep bench of lawyers has a formidable reputation for its work advising on CLOs, and regularly acts on multi-jurisdictional matters alongside colleagues in several other key markets including the BVI and Republic of Ireland.

**Strengths**

*"Maples have a strong bench, and they are recognised leaders in the space."*

*"Maples approaches all questions with a commercial lens and our shared clients appreciate that approach."*

*"We value the expert advice and counsel that Maples provide when working with us on complex matters."*

*"The team at Maples is highly responsive and detail-oriented. We are certain we can rely on them when we are working on a tight timeline."*

**Work highlights** Maples was Cayman counsel to Noble Corporation on its USD3.4 billion merger with Maersk Drilling.

| Corporate & Finance                              |
|--|
| Eminent Practitioners                            |
| Eminent Practitioners                            |
| Gardner Matthew <i>Maples Group</i>              |
| Jackson Rob <i>Walkers</i>                       |
| Macdonald Scott <i>Maples Group</i>              |
| Leading Individuals                              |
| Band 1   |
| Lomax Neal <i>Mourant</i>                        |
| Maharaj Ramesh <i>Mourant</i>                    |
| Meigh Tina <i>Maples Group</i> *                 |
| Raftopoulos Simon <i>Appleby</i>                 |
| Woolf Benjamin <i>Appleby</i>                    |
| Band 2   |
| Bullmore Nick <i>Carey Olsen</i>                 |
| Burch James <i>Walkers</i>                       |
| Correy Suzanne <i>Maples Group</i>               |
| Davison Angus <i>Ogier</i> *                     |
| Heinicke James <i>Ogier</i> *                    |
| Meloy Jonathon <i>Maples Group</i> *             |
| Munden Richard <i>Carey Olsen</i>                |
| Stocker Matthew <i>Conyers</i>                   |
| Band 3   |
| Barton Caroline <i>Appleby</i>                   |
| Craig Alan <i>Campbells</i>                      |
| Farley Jarrod <i>Carey Olsen</i>                 |
| Humphries Chris <i>Stuarts Humphries (ORL)</i> ◇ |
| Johns Michael <i>Maples Group</i>                |
| Kruger Bradley <i>Ogier</i> *                    |
| MacAdam Jacob <i>Appleby</i>                     |
| Morris Joss <i>Bedell Cristin (ORL)</i> ◇        |
| O'Hegarty Finn <i>Maples Group</i>               |
| Paschalides Philip <i>Walkers</i>                |
| Philp Anthony <i>Maples Group</i>                |
| Pullinger Georgina <i>Appleby</i>                |
| Reeve James <i>Maples Group</i>                  |
| Russell Alistair <i>Carey Olsen</i>              |
| Santangeli Mark <i>Ogier</i>                     |
| Spencer Richard <i>Campbells</i>                 |
| Stenson Derek <i>Conyers</i>                     |
| Taber Matt <i>Harneys</i>                        |
| Wisdom Anna-Lise <i>Conyers</i>                  |
| Woodcock Alexandra <i>Mourant</i>                |
| Ziegler Joanne <i>Walkers</i>                    |
| Up-and-coming individuals                        |
| Anderson Hugh <i>Walkers</i>                     |
| Hart Justin <i>Walkers</i>                       |

**Notable practitioners**

**Matthew Gardner** is adept at representing public and private companies in M&A, joint ventures and capital markets transactions. He currently serves as Cayman Islands managing partner and as head of the firm's Cayman corporate department. **Scott Macdonald** is highly experienced in Cayman Islands structured finance and CLO transactions, as well as regulatory and compliance mandates. He combines client-facing work with his role as global head of the firm's finance group. Head of Maples' Cayman finance team **Tina Meigh** (see p.913) is a well-established lawyer who regularly advises on fund finance transactions. She also has extensive experience in all aspects of bank lending and derivatives. **Strengths:** *"Tina Meigh is top of her game."* **Suzanne Correy** assists clients with the Cayman aspects of a wide range of M&A and capital markets work. Her experience also includes high-value IPO transactions. **Strengths:** *"Suzanne Correy is excellent. She is commercial and responsive."* **Jonathon Meloy** (see p.913) represents clients in an array of capital markets and corporate finance transactions. He is especially adept at advising on Cayman Islands aircraft finance structures. **Michael Johns** has solid expertise advising on the Cayman aspects of high-value international mergers. He is also adept at handling capital markets matters, including IPOs. **Strengths:** *"Michael Johns is sharp and has a very nice touch with clients—he's responsive, super-clear in his advice and commercially minded."* **Finn O'Hegarty** is noted for his assured oversight of the full gamut of Cayman corporate, financing and capital markets transactions. He regularly assists with matters on behalf of Latin American clients. **Strengths:** *"Finn O'Hegarty is a top-notch attorney who delivers real results in a timely and professional manner."* **Anthony Philp** has considerable experience in debt capital markets and securitisation matters, having had lead roles on a number of very high-value transactions of late. **Strengths:** *"Anthony Philp is extremely pragmatic and user-friendly."* *"Anthony Philp is a strong, knowledgeable professional who is easy to work with."* **James Reeve** acts on the full gamut of finance transactions, with an especially strong track record

in structured finance. He represents numerous major clients, including investment managers.

**Strengths:** *“James Reeve is super-responsive, easy to work with, proactive and forward-thinking.”*

## Walkers

**What the team is known for** Walkers has a well-established and sizeable transactional team whose lawyers act on a wide variety of major matters. The firm's expertise encompasses CLOs and structured products, capital markets, M&A and group restructurings, and the team is also very well versed in fund and asset finance. Walkers enjoys excellent relationships with many leading onshore law firms, who view it as a go-to in the jurisdiction. End-user clients include major international banks and conglomerates as well as private equity houses and asset managers.

### Strengths

*“Walkers has a deep bench and very strong experience in structured finance and complex cross-border issues.”*

*“From the most senior partner down to junior associates, I have confidence in Walkers across the board.”*

*“There's no other law firm like Walkers, in terms of their service level and their connectivity. If they are in a jurisdiction they will help you close that transaction.”*

**Work highlights** Walkers advised EJF, a Cayman special-purpose acquisition company, on its USD8.5 billion merger with Pagaya, an AI fintech provider.

### Notable practitioners

**Rob Jackson** has been based in the Cayman Islands for many years. He operates an impressive transactional practice that regularly sees him advise on high-profile finance transactions. He is adept at representing both lenders and borrowers, and is equally capable when it comes to financial restructurings. **James Burch** has deep experience in joint ventures, debt capital markets and structured finance mandates. He is also regularly noted for his expertise in the aviation sector.

**Strengths:** *“James Burch is very smart, knows the market and works hard for his clients.” “He is one of the hardest-working professionals I know in this space.”* **Philip Paschalides** advises clients on a broad spectrum of securitisation and debt capital markets transactions as well as insurance and CLO mandates. He is well known for his extensive knowledge of Cayman Islands law. **Joanne Ziegler** is highlighted for her frequent guidance to well-known clients on capital markets and structured finance transactions, including CLOs. Referees appreciate her extensive knowledge of issues within this field. **Strengths:** *“Joanne Ziegler is a go-to lawyer for questions in the CLO space. She is very aware of transactional and regulatory issues, and we appreciate how responsive she is.” “Joanne Ziegler's attention to detail and client service are second to none.”* **Hugh Anderson** is well equipped to assist clients with the Cayman aspects of significant M&A transactions. He also regularly advises on structured finance, acquisition and private equity finance. **Strengths:** *“Hugh Anderson is a fantastic lawyer who's commercially savvy and overall very pleasant to work with.” “He's very responsive and explains the issues clearly.”*

**Justin Hart** possesses considerable strengths in corporate and finance. He is a popular figure in the Cayman Islands legal community and is well versed in acting for financial institutions.

**Strengths:** *“Justin Hart is an exemplary professional; his attention to detail and client service are impeccable.” “Justin Hart is a very seasoned lawyer with a deep understanding of the market.”*

## Band 2

### Appleby

**What the team is known for** Appleby has a well-regarded finance practice acting for an impressive list of financial institutions. The firm regularly represents underwriters in structured finance transactions, including CLOs. It possesses further strengths in fund finance, as well as debt capital markets and derivatives issuances. The firm's finance expertise is complemented by a sound understanding of M&A and regulatory issues.

### Strengths

*“Appleby has excellent breadth, high-quality individuals and a very solid team overall.”*

*“Appleby can assist on all of my transactions and meet any level of sophistication required.”*

*“Appleby is an excellent adviser and provides an important perspective on both the Cayman and international aspects of complex cross-border transactions.”*

**Work highlights** An Appleby team counselled Natixis on the Cayman elements of a USD3.9 billion credit facility extended to a major US private equity house.

### Notable practitioners

**Simon Raftopoulos** is a well-established figure in the Cayman Islands and leads Appleby's corporate team within the jurisdiction. He is also extremely experienced in equity finance as well as fund finance, with regular roles advising financial institutions on their provision of credit to private equity funds and related entities such as investment advisers. **Strengths:** *“Simon Raftopoulos is a superb lawyer, and he leads a best-in-class team in the fund finance space.” “Simon Raftopoulos and his team provide a fantastic service.”* **Benjamin Woolf** comes highly recommended for his strengths in Cayman structured finance mandates, particularly CLOs. He is also very capable when it comes to mergers, acquisitions and debt capital markets issuances. **Strengths:** *“Benjamin Woolf is a very solid, smart and reliable attorney.” “Benjamin Woolf is proactive in letting us know about issues we should be aware of. He is commercial, personable and always available and responsive.” “Benjamin Woolf's knowledge of structured finance, CLOs, and other asset classes is fantastic. His market experience is broad and deep, and he takes a very practical and commercial approach to deals, guided by his understanding of client goals.”* **Caroline Barton** heads Appleby's banking and asset finance group, in which position she has significant experience advising borrowers as well as lenders. In addition to finance work she is also well accustomed to advising on capital markets transactions, including the issuance of American depositary shares. **Strengths:** *“Caroline*

*Barton is an expert at running deals and making a smooth closing process.” “Caroline Barton is always responsive and efficient.” “Caroline offers excellent service and a high level of sophistication and understanding of the market.”* **Jacob MacAdam** advises international banks, corporate clients and private equity firms on a variety of financing arrangements, M&A and capital markets activities, as well as corporate restructurings. **Strengths:** *“Jacob MacAdam is very pragmatic, very knowledgeable and he knows private equity inside-out.” “Jacob is very knowledgeable on all cross-border offshore matters. He's very responsive, commercial and practical in his advice.” “He is very commercial and business-minded.”* **Georgina Pullinger** is active on a wide range of financing mandates, which includes numerous lending and fund finance matters. Her work regularly sees her acting on behalf of leading global investment banks. **Strengths:** *“Georgina Pullinger is responsive and commercial, she explains the nuances of Cayman legal requirements clearly and is always available for questions.” “Georgina is fantastic; a trusted adviser in all aspects.” “She is always quick to respond, has a view on complex matters, and mixed in with the excellent lawyering she is also commercial and an absolute pleasure to deal with.”*

## Mourant

**What the team is known for** Leading Channel Islands law firm Mourant has a respected Cayman corporate practice and is experienced advising major corporations, financial institutions and private fund sponsors. It has an equally prominent banking team which has a wealth of experience acting for both lenders and borrowers. The firm is also noted for its further strengths in transactional work relating to securitisations and capital markets issuances. In addition, it leverages its deep experience in Cayman Islands investment funds to offer in-depth advice on high-value M&A, as well as private equity investments and divestments.

### Strengths

*“Mourant always understands complicated structures and provides key market insights.”*

*“Mourant rose to every challenge we presented them with. They are prompt, professional and efficient.”*

*“Mourant takes the time to understand a client, their business model and all its nuances; they work to understand the dynamic and this helps forge a strong client relationship.”*

*“Mourant is top of the game in terms of market knowledge, and always on their toes watching for potential issues and concerns.”*

**Work highlights** Mourant represented Brazilian biotech company SuperBac on its merger with XPAC Acquisition Corp.

### Notable practitioners

**Neal Lomax** has a varied practice which encompasses representing clients in M&A transactions as well as equity capital markets matters. He regularly assists private equity and venture capital houses with the Cayman aspects of their investments, as well as acting for a variety of multinational companies. **Ramesh Maharaj** is a highly experienced attorney with considerable expertise in the Cayman aspects of high-value M&A

transactions and non-contentious restructurings. His client roster features many investment and asset management firms. **Strengths:** “Ramesh Maharaj is very down to earth, can explain complex matters in simple commercial terms, and is good at identifying and explaining risk.” **Alexandra Woodcock** has a broad finance practice with extensive experience advising major international banks and alternative lenders such as private equity funds. **Strengths:** “Alexandra Woodcock is very solution-oriented and good at looking to see what fits the client’s risk appetite. She also brings great practical ingenuity to the team.”

### Ogier

**What the team is known for** Ogier is a well-respected offshore law firm with considerable experience in M&A and in high-value corporate and finance work. Its Cayman Islands team regularly handles both equity and debt capital markets issuances, as well as CLOs, securitisations and derivatives. It is especially noted for advising clients based in Latin America and the USA on both transactional and regulatory matters.

#### Strengths

“Ogier’s service level and responsiveness is high; they are accustomed to delivering within very tight timeframes.”

“The ability of Ogier to handle complex and sophisticated matters is very strong.”

“Ogier always give us the best support along with the most diligent attention to our needs.”

**Work highlights** Ogier acted as Cayman counsel to the digital healthcare group ETAO on its USD1 billion merger with the special-purpose acquisition vehicle Mountain Crest Acquisition Corp III.

#### Notable practitioners

**Angus Davison** (see p.911) is a highly experienced Cayman Islands lawyer who handles an impressive array of M&A as well as equity and debt financing transactions. He is well regarded among sources in the legal profession. **Strengths:** “Angus Davison provides guidance on several complex transactions and continues to be a reliable source of support.”

“The work that Angus Davison and his team provide is of a very high standard and we can always rely on things being done within the required, often compressed, timeline.” **James Heinicke** (see p.912) impresses for his deep experience in fund finance and other transactional matters. He heads the fund finance group within Ogier. **Strengths:** “James Heinicke and the team at Ogier always give us the best support along with the most diligent attention to our needs. They are always very well prepared to handle any situation that comes their way.” “James Heinicke is super-easy to work with. He is professional, knowledgeable and responsive.”

**Bradley Kruger** (see p.912) leads Ogier’s Cayman Islands corporate team. He is adept at advising on M&A, equity listings and related regulatory filings, with additional strength in investment fund mandates. **Strengths:** “Bradley Kruger and the Ogier team are responsive, thorough, professional and detailed, as well as pleasant and hard-working.” **Mark Santangeli** has experience relating to all aspects of Cayman finance work. He regularly advises big-name clients on a wide variety of loans, structured finance, fund finance and securitisation mandates. **Strengths:** “Mark

*Santangeli is always very responsive, knowledgeable and efficient; his input is always appreciated.* “It is always an excellent experience working with Mark. He is my first phone call when I have a question on Cayman law.” “Mark Santangeli is our go-to resource in the Caymans. He is responsive, takes a commercial approach and is solution-oriented.”

### Band 3

#### Carey Olsen

**What the team is known for** Carey Olsen has a robust corporate and finance offering, with well-regarded lawyers acting on the full gamut of M&A transactions, IPOs, debt issuances, joint ventures, corporate structuring and regulatory matters. The firm’s finance group is especially active, assisting with acquisition, fund, real estate and asset finance. The firm represents an impressive number of global financial institutions and clients from a large variety of sectors.

#### Strengths

“Carey Olsen is creative and practical in providing their legal support, including in the more complex transactions.”

“Every single curveball we throw at Carey Olsen is gracefully and pragmatically handled.”

“The Carey Olsen team finds ways to accomplish business solutions; they are really good at that.”

**Work highlights** Carey Olsen assisted Transocean with a more than USD1.1 billion debt issuance.

#### Notable practitioners

**Nick Bullmore** is very experienced in financing, including fund finance work, in addition to advising on joint ventures, IPOs and M&A transactions. He currently serves as the firm’s Cayman Islands managing partner. **Strengths:** “Nick Bullmore is a strong attorney who is very responsive, commercial and practical. He strives to achieve the client’s goals, including staying within budget.”

“Nick Bullmore is one of the top all-round lawyers in the Cayman Islands.” **Richard Munden** is particularly highly thought of for aircraft finance work, leveraging his past in-house experience at a well-known airline. In addition to fund and asset finance, he is also well versed in assisting blockchain and virtual asset service providers.

**Jarrold Farley** is best known for his funds practice. In addition to this, he also regularly advises on corporate and finance transactions, including significant transactional private equity and venture capital work as well as acting for virtual asset service providers. **Strengths:** “Jarrod Farley is a brilliant lawyer.” **Alistair Russell** has a wide-ranging practice, touching on finance, compliance issues and venture capital funding. Of late, his work has had a particular emphasis on representing clients based in Latin America. **Strengths:** “Alistair Russell is incredibly responsive, service-oriented and practical.” “Alistair Russell is solution-oriented and always able to offer elegant and intelligent advice.” “Alistair Russell is absolutely fantastic to work with. Very sharp, pragmatic and with an unparalleled work ethic.”

#### Conyers

**What the team is known for** Conyers’ Cayman office houses a prominent team with strong experience

in M&A, finance, corporate restructurings, private equity financing and capital markets. It regularly advises on asset finance, with a particular emphasis on the aviation sector. The team offers further expertise in insurance, venture capital and structured finance.

#### Strengths

“In an industry where communication and efficiency is very important, Conyers excels in both respects.”

“Conyers has never come up short in any discipline, even ones that are slightly off the main work-stream.”

“Conyers is excellent in terms of attention to detail as well as responsiveness.”

**Work highlights** Conyers advised Genesis Growth Tech Acquisition Corp on the Cayman aspects of a proposed, USD312 million merger with Biolog-ID.

#### Notable practitioners

Cayman head of corporate **Matthew Stocker** is widely noted for his experienced handling of aviation finance, equity capital markets and M&A transactions. His vast roster of clients regularly includes joint underwriters. **Strengths:** “He is always pleasant to work with, responsive and user-friendly.” “Matthew is responsive and knowledgeable, and has demonstrated his effectiveness over many years.” **Derek Stenson** assists with the full suite of finance and corporate issues. His reputation is particularly strong in the field of insurance, where he advises numerous major insurers.

**Strengths:** “In our view, Derek Stenson is the top insurance and reinsurance lawyer in the Cayman Islands.” **Anna-Lise Wisdom** is an increasingly notable force in the Cayman Islands fund finance arena, with further expertise in subscription finance. **Strengths:** “Anna-Lise is the epitome of professionalism in the legal profession.”

### Band 4

#### Campbells

**What the team is known for** Campbells is a Cayman Islands-headquartered law firm which is widely respected for its skills in corporate reorganisations, M&A, equity financing and regulatory matters. It maintains a dynamic insurance practice which acts for numerous international insurers. The firm is increasingly well known for its fintech and blockchain expertise as well as its strength in venture capital.

#### Strengths

“Campbells’ work on complex, sophisticated matters is of the highest quality.”

“Campbells is able to provide very sophisticated help on the local legal requirements as well as displaying a deep understanding of what is the global market standard.”

“Campbells has a strong team and never seems to run out of bandwidth to help with new projects.”

**Work highlights** Campbells advised JHD Technologies and its associates on a business combination with East Stone Acquisition Corporation and a subsequent NASDAQ listing.

#### Notable practitioners

**Alan Craig** has more than two decades’ experience in the Cayman Islands and heads the firm’s corporate group. He advises on a broad range of issues including M&A, but is best known for his

twin specialisms in venture capital and insurance.

**Strengths:** *“Alan Craig is a very seasoned and well-known insurance attorney in the Cayman market.” “He is a pleasure to work with.”* **Richard Spencer** is a well-established Cayman Islands lawyer who focuses his practice on digital and virtual assets, including blockchain and crypto-currency matters as well as fintech regulatory work. He takes a lead role on many of the firm’s key mandates in this arena. **Strengths:** *“Richard Spencer is technically very good and provides straightforward advice.”*

## Harneys

**What the team is known for** Harneys has a well-regarded Cayman Islands office which possesses noteworthy strengths in M&A mandates, debt capital markets issuances and IPOs. The team is also very active on fund finance mandates and is an increasingly significant force in subscription finance and digital asset transactions. It regularly acts for US banks and financial institutions as well as private equity and real estate clients.

### Strengths

*“Harneys is proactive, responsive, professional,*

*agile and very pleasant to deal with and work with.”*

**Work highlights** Harneys advised the AI and cognitive computing company Avanseus Holdings on its USD136 million merger with Fat Projects Acquisition.

### Notable practitioners

**Matt Taber** focuses on subscription and fund finance, as well as investment fund, M&A and digital asset mandates. He is a well-regarded figure with a strong track record acting for financial institutions. **Strengths:** *“Matt Taber is excellent at interpreting our needs and then assembling the team to deliver complex international advice.” “Matt Taber is a fantastic lawyer with brilliant responsiveness and level of service.” “Matt Taber is a safe pair of hands and his advice is clear and concise.”*

## Other Ranked Lawyers

**Chris Humphries** combines his role as managing director of Stuarts Humphries with an active corporate and investment fund practice including virtual asset mandates. He is also an adept adviser on regulatory processes impacting the operation of Cayman companies.

### Strengths:

*“Chris Humphries provides a level of sophistication, business awareness and accessibility that is almost unparalleled in the Cayman Islands.”*

*“Chris Humphries is a fantastic leader. He is rock solid on any issue and super-responsive.”*

**Joss Morris** of Bedell Cristin assists with a broad range of corporate transactions and commercial agreements, including M&A and joint ventures. He complements his proficiency in these areas with a sound understanding of Cayman structuring and investment fund work.

### Strengths:

*“Joss is great technically and very user-friendly.”*

*“Joss Morris is excellent and delivers great client service.”*

## Dispute Resolution

| Dispute Resolution   |  |
|--|--|
| Leading Firms  |  |
| <b>Band 1</b>  |  |
| Maples Group   |  |
| Walkers  |  |
| <b>Band 2</b>  |  |
| Campbells  |  |
| Ogier  |  |
| <b>Band 3</b>  |  |
| Appleby  |  |
| Carey Olsen  |  |
| Collas Crill   |  |
| Conyers  |  |
| Harneys  |  |
| Mourant  |  |
| <b>Band 4</b>  |  |
| Bedell Cristin   |  |
| Kobre & Kim  |  |
| <b>Band 5</b>  |  |
| Broadhurst LLC   |  |
| Forbes Hare  |  |
| McGrath Tonner   |  |
| Nelsons  |  |
| Travers Thorp Alberga Attorneys-at-Law                         |  |
| <i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i> |  |

### Band 1

#### Maples Group

**What the team is known for** Maples has a distinguished dispute resolution practice that deals with a diverse range of commercial cases. The Cayman team is experienced in high-value

shareholder disputes as well as consensual and non-consensual restructurings and insolvency proceedings. In the latter field the firm is accomplished at representing both debtors and creditors.

### Strengths

*“The Maples team’s ability to analyse complex issues while being mindful of wider commercial considerations was instrumental in achieving a successful outcome.”*

*“Maples can field a phalanx of well-prepared and thoughtful lawyers who drill down into the facts and tackle the tough issues.”*

*“Maples provides sound commercial and tactical advice based on a deep level of experience and expertise.”*

*“They are extremely accommodating when there are counsel in multiple jurisdictions and time zones.”*

*“Everyone I have worked with at Maples has been talented, responsive and smart.”*

**Work highlights** Maples Group defended US financial services provider Uphold following a winding-up petition filed by some of the company’s shareholders.

### Notable practitioners

Global department co-head **James Eldridge** is a highly respected Cayman Islands litigator with noted expertise in both general commercial litigation and insolvency mandates. He is also noted for his handling of corporate recovery matters and restructurings. **Strengths:** *“James Eldridge is very sharp. He comes up with strategies that are*

*well thought out.” “James is insightful, engaging and well informed.” “He is committed to his clients and he consistently goes above and beyond to provide thorough and comprehensive advice.” “James is very commercial, very driven and will always try to settle early if possible. He’s the guy you want to have in your corner.”* **Caroline Moran** co-heads the global disputes and insolvency team. She is particularly well versed in the issues arising from major cross-border insolvency cases. She displays additional strength in fair-value appraisals, debt restructuring and a variety of other mandates. **Strengths:** *“Caroline Moran is great at crafting strategy, quickly distilling relevant developments and thinking through how different pieces of the litigation puzzle work together.” “Caroline is a great litigator who is gutsy and determined, and fantastic in both trial preparation and the interlocutory stages.” “She is a really good problem-solver who has a disciplined and organised way of working through an issue and finding a solution.”*

**Mac Imrie KC** operates a respected commercial litigation practice that sees him advising clients on Cayman arbitration, contentious regulatory issues and fair-value appraisals. He is now a consultant to the firm, having previously practised as a partner. **Strengths:** *“Mac Imrie is a fantastic lawyer who is able to clearly explain complex and sophisticated matters to clients and judges.” “Mac Imrie is a leader in the take-private share appraisal space who has a subtle and thoughtful approach to issues.”* **Luke Stockdale** is adept at both litigation and arbitration, with notable expertise in multi-ju-

| Dispute Resolution                                      |  |
|---|--|
| Eminent Practitioners                                   |  |
| <b>Eminent Practitioners</b>                            |  |
| Reynolds Rachael <i>Ogier</i> *                         |  |
| Leading Individuals                                     |  |
| <b>Band 1</b>   | Young Christopher <i>Forbes Hare</i>             |
| Eldridge James <i>Maples Group</i>                      | <b>Band 5</b>                                    |
| Goodman Mark <i>Campbells</i>                           | Abbott Alistair <i>Forbes Hare</i>               |
| Goucke Matthew <i>Walkers</i>                           | Bodden Erik <i>Conyers</i>                       |
| Manning Guy <i>Campbells</i>                            | Broadhurst Kyle <i>Broadhurst LLC</i>            |
| Moran Caroline <i>Maples Group</i>                      | Colegate Jennifer <i>Collas Crill</i> *          |
| <b>Band 2</b>   | Dilliway-Parry Guy <i>Priestleys (ORL)</i> ◇     |
| Dawson Sam <i>Carey Olsen</i>                           | Dors Matthew <i>Collas Crill</i> *               |
| Dickson Simon <i>Mourant</i>                            | Dunne Nick <i>Walkers</i>                        |
| Hayden Peter <i>Mourant</i>                             | Faulkner Liam <i>Campbells</i>                   |
| Kish Marc <i>Ogier</i> *                                | Flanagan Colm <i>Nelsons</i>                     |
| Lupton Neil <i>Walkers</i>                              | Herrod Nick <i>Maples Group</i>                  |
| Tyers-Smith Peter <i>Kobre &amp; Kim</i>                | Kennedy Paul <i>Campbells</i>                    |
| White Shelley <i>Walkers</i>                            | Khanbhai Hamid <i>Limbo (ORL)</i> ◇              |
| <b>Band 3</b>   | Lambert Ian <i>Broadhurst LLC</i>                |
| Bell Rupert <i>Walkers</i>                              | Levers Christopher <i>Ogier</i> *                |
| Fox Jennifer <i>Ogier</i> *                             | McClymont Kate <i>Nelsons</i>                    |
| Fox Nicholas <i>Mourant</i>                             | McGriele Kai <i>Bedell Cristin</i>               |
| Gowrie Barnaby <i>Walkers</i>                           | Milne Jonathon <i>Conyers</i>                    |
| Heaver-Wren Tony <i>Appleby</i>                         | Payne Ulrich <i>Appleby</i>                      |
| Hoffman Nick <i>Harneys</i>                             | Pullinger Andrew <i>Campbells</i>                |
| Imrie Mac <i>Maples Group</i>                           | Sherwood Peter <i>Carey Olsen</i>                |
| Leontsinis Stephen <i>Collas Crill</i> *                | Tonner Ben <i>McGrath Tonner</i>                 |
| Said Sebastian <i>Appleby</i>                           | Williams Jessica <i>Harneys</i>                  |
| <b>Band 4</b>   | <b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>                 |
| Bellfield (née Lardner) Gemma <i>Ogier</i> *            | Crane Adam <i>Baker &amp; Partners (ORL)</i> ◇ * |
| Cecere Rocco <i>Collas Crill</i> *                      | Kendall Peter <i>Walkers</i>                     |
| Harlowe Christopher <i>Mourant</i>                      | King Gráinne <i>Harneys</i>                      |
| Harris John <i>Nelsons</i>                              | MacAdam Fiona <i>Walkers</i>                     |
| Hatfield Laura <i>Bedell Cristin</i>                    | Olarou Denis <i>Carey Olsen</i>                  |
| Hobden Ben <i>Harneys</i>                               | <b>Associates to watch</b>                       |
| Pearson Katie <i>Claritas Legal (ORL)</i> ◇ *           | Groark Ilona <i>Kobre &amp; Kim</i>              |
| Robinson Hector <i>Mourant</i>                          | Keefe Chris <i>Walkers</i>                       |
| Stockdale Luke <i>Maples Group</i>                      | Ter-Berg Harriet <i>Walkers</i>                  |
| * Indicates individual with profile.                    |  |
| ◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.                          |  |
| Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest. |  |

risdictional insolvency cases. He is an established figure in the Cayman Islands, with noteworthy experience handling investment fund disputes. **Strengths:** "Luke Stockdale is a good strategist and a straight-shooter who sees beyond the immediate issues towards the ultimate end goal." **Nick Herrod** is an accomplished lawyer who regularly advises clients on Cayman Islands restructuring and insolvency issues. **Strengths:** "Nick is an excellent lawyer. He is very knowledgeable and takes a comprehensive, meticulous approach to his work. His work product is also high-quality and carefully considered."

## Walkers

**What the team is known for** Walkers' Cayman office houses a top-rated insolvency and dispute resolution practice dealing extensively with high-value cases. It is well versed in all areas of commercial litigation and has considerable experience handling multi-jurisdictional disputes. The firm is also able to advise on matters of alleged commercial fraud.

### Strengths

"Walkers are very adept at quickly analysing com-

plex and sophisticated matters and providing clear advice from both a legal and practical perspective." "The Walkers team are very aware of the potential commercial benefits or deterrents when considering or advising on certain issues."

"The team at Walkers are responsive and the service we have received has been seamlessly professional."

"Walkers' service levels are always top class and their responses are comprehensive and timely."

"I feel very confident in the advice given and work provided by all members of the team."

**Work highlights** Walkers acted as Cayman counsel to the debtors of FTX in the company's approximately USD32 billion bankruptcy and Chapter 11 proceedings.

### Notable practitioners

**Matthew Goucke** offers considerable expertise in contentious insolvency, with a notable specialism regarding distressed investment funds. In recent years he has handled several of the most significant such matters in the Cayman Islands. **Strengths:** "Matthew Goucke is extremely knowledgeable and highly recommended." "Matthew Goucke is super-engaged, very thoughtful

about the advice he gives, very collaborative, and pragmatic on how to allocate work to his team members." **Neil Lupton** has a stellar reputation for restructuring and insolvency mandates. His recent workload encompasses advice on global restructuring plans and the Cayman elements of Chapter 11 liquidation proceedings. **Strengths:** "Neil Lupton is a very good, strong practitioner." **Shelley White** is noted for her skilled handling of insolvency matters and general commercial litigation. She also advises on Cayman trust disputes and white-collar fraud claims. **Strengths:** "Shelley White is very intelligent. She has a razor-sharp mind combined with very strong communication skills and she is always approachable and open. Clients enjoy working with her." "Shelley White is very responsive and gives excellent, sensible advice." **Rupert Bell** is an experienced Cayman lawyer who regularly assists clients with insolvency proceedings and debt restructuring matters, particularly concerning distressed investment funds. **Strengths:** "Rupert Bell is a very good across-the-board lawyer and a fantastic insolvency practitioner." "Rupert has good judgement and a nice feel for what you can and can't do in Cayman." "Rupert Bell is always super-responsive, whether it is with a quick case update or a more comprehensive reply." Seasoned Cayman litigator **Barnaby Gowrie** is very well versed in restructuring and insolvency, especially as they relate to structured products. In this arena he is able to leverage insights from his background as an onshore transactional lawyer in his advice to clients. **Strengths:** "Barnaby Gowrie is a very tough litigator. He takes tough decisions when they need to be taken; he is a fierce opponent but easy to work with and he always finds solutions." "Barnaby Gowrie is an excellent lawyer." **Nick Dunne** is a well-known figure in the Cayman Islands who is noted for his strong capabilities in white-collar fraud cases. His wider practice has also seen him lead on major real estate and trust disputes. **Strengths:** "Nick Dunne is bright, experienced, gives clear advice and achieves the desired outcome." "Nick is incisive and thorough in his analysis of legal issues while also managing to be supremely user-friendly, down to earth and approachable." "He is very smart, has amazing judgement and cuts to the core of the matter." **Peter Kendall** is a well-recognised Cayman lawyer who is known for his expertise in insolvency cases. He is additionally adept at handling debt restructurings. **Strengths:** "Peter Kendall is very responsive and adept at leading and managing multiple Walkers teams across jurisdictions and time zones to provide a high-quality service." "Peter Kendall is technically excellent, very commercial and works well with clients." **Fiona MacAdam** is well known in the market for her assistance with high-value restructuring cases. She continues to develop her reputation as one of the most promising figures in the Cayman dispute resolution arena. **Strengths:** "Fiona MacAdam has a very good range of experience and I would highly recommend her." "Fiona is an excellent lawyer." **Chris Keefe** is a standout senior counsel who has considerable experience assisting clients with insolvency proceedings and other commercial disputes. He maintains a strong reputation among his peers in the market. **Strengths:** "Chris Keefe has vast technical knowl-

edge and is able to add value with his commercial judgement.” “Chris Keefe is excellent and knows insolvency law inside out.” **Harriet Ter-Berg** is an associate who assists with a range of matters including white-collar fraud cases, contested insolvency proceedings and investment fund disputes.

## Band 2

### Campbells

**What the team is known for** Campbells is a highly regarded Cayman law firm whose disputes team is widely noted for its handling of high-stakes restructuring and insolvency matters. It also assists with a range of general commercial disputes such as those arising out of allegations of fraudulent activity as well as contentious M&A transactions. The department represents major financial institutions, private equity firms and investment funds.

#### Strengths

“Whenever we need an expert on Cayman law, Campbells has a team member readily available.” “Campbells has substantial experience of conducting complex multi-jurisdictional litigation.” “Campbells’ team not only understand the complex legal issues but also appreciate the wider picture and the need to be commercial.”

**Work highlights** Campbells represented dissenting shareholders in the Cayman Section 238 litigation of 58.com, valued at more than USD2 billion.

#### Notable practitioners

**Mark Goodman** has considerable experience relating to the Cayman court system. He is especially noted for his restructuring and insolvency work, with additional expertise in investment fund litigation. **Strengths:** “Mark Goodman is focused, user-friendly and dedicated. His advice is invariably right; he is very reliable.” “Mark Goodman is very practical and very pragmatic. He looks for solutions rather than seeing litigation as the only path to a resolution. He always thinks about how best to settle a case to the client’s advantage.” “Mark Goodman understands the client’s position and plans around it.” **Guy Manning** has a wealth of experience assisting clients with restructuring and insolvency proceedings as well as shareholder and investment fund disputes. He has many years of experience regarding Cayman disputes and heads up Campbells’ litigation, insolvency and restructuring team. **Strengths:** “Guy Manning is commercial, considered and pragmatic in the advice that he provides, and always mindful of the nuanced position of the matter.” “Guy Manning is knowledgeable, a great technical lawyer and also very commercial.” “Guy is very responsive, highly professional and knowledgeable about all aspects of Cayman law, but he also takes into account the cross-border element of the engagements.” “Guy is great – he’s knowledgeable and personable.” **Liam Faulkner** is well known for his strengths in contentious insolvency and restructuring matters. He also handles the full spectrum of shareholder and investment fund disputes. **Strengths:** “Liam Faulkner is an exceptionally safe pair of hands for hard-fought litigation. He is no-nonsense, wise and

a pleasure to work with.” “His attention to detail is outstanding, and his strategic approach to problem solving is invaluable.” “Liam is very commercially, strategically savvy and gets up to speed on detail really quickly.” **Paul Kennedy** has extensive experience acting for Latin American clients and is actively involved in a number of asset recovery mandates, insolvency matters and shareholder disputes. **Strengths:** “Paul Kennedy is a very user-friendly, smart lawyer who gives clear and concise advice and is very good from a strategic and commercial standpoint.” “Paul’s guidance has been invaluable and has meant that all our goals have been accomplished.” **Andrew Pullinger** is an ever-more noteworthy force to be reckoned with when it comes to commercial litigation and arbitration in the Cayman Islands. **Strengths:** “Andrew Pullinger displays very strong legal acumen, outstanding client interaction and an excellent grasp of the commercial aspects of nuanced legal points.” “Andrew Pullinger is a go-to person for complex offshore litigations.”

### Ogier

**What the team is known for** Ogier has a well-established team that is highly regarded in the Cayman dispute resolution space. The firm handles a range of insolvency, white-collar fraud and shareholder disputes, as well as assisting with the enforcement of arbitral awards. It attracts a broad array of clients, including banks, fund managers and trustees.

#### Strengths

“Ogier has demonstrated its ability to handle complex and cross-border matters.”

“Ogier has good depth among the associates; they are responsive, structured and efficient.”

“They are responsive and always provide excellent service.”

**Work highlights** Ogier represented Tianrui, as the majority shareholder, in the winding-up proceedings of the China Shanshui Cement Group.

#### Notable practitioners

**Rachael Reynolds KC** (see p.913) is a highly experienced Cayman Islands lawyer who advises clients on investment fund disputes as well as insolvency and white-collar fraud cases. She is Ogier’s global senior partner and also draws great acclaim for her trust litigation practice. **Strengths:** “Rachael Reynolds has a razor-sharp mind. She is always clear and focused, and fights every point to the last.” “Working with Rachael is always a positive experience. She works hard, she is always highly prepared and she brings enthusiasm, professionalism and energy to everything she does.” “Rachael Reynolds inspires confidence. She is persuasive, brings great insight and knows how the judiciary are likely to react.” “Rachael brings great pragmatism and commercial practicality to a case.” **Marc Kish** (see p.912) assists a variety of significant clients with dissenting shareholder and debt restructuring mandates as well as broader commercial disputes. From his base in the Cayman Islands, he leads Ogier’s global dispute resolution practice. **Strengths:** “Marc Kish is at the top of his game in the offshore market. He is incredibly responsive and technically brilliant.” “Marc Kish is able to seamlessly become part of the client’s team in order to maximise overall results.” “Marc Kish

is a gentleman and a great lawyer.” **Jennifer Fox** (see p.911) is applauded for her handling of high-value insolvency and commercial fraud disputes. She is also known for her strength in contentious Cayman trust matters. **Strengths:** “Jennifer Fox is an authority on the Cayman legal framework and is responsive, well structured and clear in her advice.” “When the chips are down, Jennifer gives outstandingly quick and pragmatic advice.” “Jennifer Fox is forensic and leaves no stone unturned. She is brilliant for civil fraud and insolvency matters – she has developed a fantastic reputation and is a pleasure to work with.” **Gemma Bellfield (née Lardner)** (see p.910) has more than a decade of experience counselling clients on major restructuring and insolvency proceedings, both onshore and in the Cayman Islands. She is also well versed in general commercial litigation. **Strengths:** “Gemma is a very tenacious and very tough opponent, and she is very creative in the legal arguments she deploys.” “Gemma is a good lawyer who is hard-working and very active.” **Christopher Levers** (see p.913) rises in this year’s rankings in recognition of the respect in which he is held among his peers. He counsels clients on an array of high-value commercial litigation and insolvency proceedings, as well as trust disputes. **Strengths:** “Christopher Levers is responsive, thorough in his advice, and his advocacy skills are very effective. He is also very pleasant to deal with.” “Christopher Levers gets top marks from us. He is extremely thorough, fast, helpful and focused.”

## Band 3

### Appleby

**What the team is known for** Appleby maintains a respected Cayman disputes practice that is recognised for handling a broad array of contentious commercial matters. Its growing team of highly experienced lawyers is particularly noted for its experience in shareholder disputes as well as insolvency matters and contentious regulatory proceedings.

#### Strengths

“Appleby’s partners each have different skills and they adapt as circumstances require. Together they are the full suite, they cover all the bases.”

“The Appleby team are very alive to commercial issues and pressures, and they are mindful of this when discussing their strategy.”

**Work highlights** Appleby counselled the joint official liquidators of Global Fidelity Bank on the Cayman bank’s USD30 million liquidation.

#### Notable practitioners

**Tony Heaver-Wren** is an experienced Cayman Islands insolvency lawyer who is also noted for his expertise in restructuring and merger-related cases, often representing dissenting shareholders. **Strengths:** “Tony Heaver-Wren is a very calm advocate; he thinks very strategically and very tactically.” “Tony Heaver-Wren is very effective. He’s a very reassuring presence to a non-lawyer client.” **Sebastian Said** is well known and highly recommended in the Cayman market. He is sought out by clients for advice on an array of issues, including professional indemnity matters, commercial litigation and insolvency proceed-

ings. **Strengths:** “Sebastian Said is a very clever guy with a good knack of seeing things in a practical way.” “Sebastian Said is good at working out what matters, cutting out the chaff and focusing on key issues.” “Sebastian is incredibly dedicated and very hard-working. He gets to grips with details and is highly focused.” “Sebastian is a really good advocate. He’s very measured, has the ear of the judge and is very clever.” **Ulrich Payne** is noted for his skilled handling of a wide range of disputes, including insolvency matters. He also has an in-depth understanding of shareholder disputes and contentious real estate work. **Strengths:** “Ulrich Payne is very clever, very astute and knows his way around the courtroom.” “Ulrich Payne is a vision guy, a commercial lawyer who is incisive in knowing what tactics to adopt. He is a good pragmatic advocate.”

## Carey Olsen

**What the team is known for** Carey Olsen is a prominent offshore law firm with a strong disputes team in the Cayman Islands. This group is regularly highlighted for its handling of high-value insolvency and restructuring work as well as shareholder disputes and trust litigation. The team also frequently handles disputes in the financial services sector.

### Strengths

“Carey Olsen’s lawyers possess a depth of knowledge and experience in handling complex and sophisticated matters.”

“Carey Olsen’s services are highly commercial and underpinned by technical strength.”

“Carey Olsen has consistently demonstrated a high standard of service and responsiveness.”

**Work highlights** Carey Olsen represented the China Shanshui Cement Group in the company’s Cayman winding-up proceedings.

### Notable practitioners

**Sam Dawson** is a highly popular lawyer among his peers in the Cayman Islands. He is well known for his strengths in corporate fraud cases and restructuring and insolvency proceedings, as well as investment fund and shareholder disputes. He heads Carey Olsen’s dispute resolution practice in the jurisdiction. **Strengths:** “Sam Dawson is hands-on, experienced and well regarded by courts and regulators throughout the Caribbean, and he can provide sound, practical advice.” “Sam is practical, easy to get along with and very good at client interaction. He tells you how it is.” **Peter Sherwood** is a respected individual who frequently assists clients with insolvency proceedings as well as debt restructuring and general commercial litigation. **Strengths:** “Peter Sherwood’s responsiveness and client service are excellent. He is always prompt in responding to client enquiries and he has a very high level of legal expertise and commercial awareness.” “Peter is a good advocate. He is smart, clever and level-headed in highly contentious circumstances.” “Peter Sherwood has excellent commercial nous combined with strong technical foundations.” **Denis Olarou** provides invaluable support on a range of disputes, including minority shareholder cases, corporate fraud disputes and insolvency issues. He is active on BVI as well as Cayman matters. **Strengths:** “Denis Olarou is a very high-quality lawyer and a formidable litigator.”

## Collas Crill

**What the team is known for** Collas Crill has a formidable Cayman disputes team that is particularly notable for its representation of clients in a wide range of liquidation, restructuring and insolvency matters. The team has further experience advising on white-collar fraud and shareholder disputes, as well as financial services litigation.

### Strengths

“The Collas Crill team has been impressive in terms of grasping the complexity and nuances of the case and shaping powerful advocacy around it.”

“Collas Crill have done an exceptional job – they’ve gone above and beyond to advance our interests at each juncture.”

“Collas Crill have a good sense of the commercial issues and drivers in a transaction and how these can be dealt with.”

“The team at Collas Crill are incredibly responsive and detailed in their engagement.”

**Work highlights** Collas Crill advised the SEC-appointed receiver to the TCA Global Credit Fund on the Cayman aspects of its Chapter 15 proceedings, which arose from allegations of fraud.

### Notable practitioners

Cayman managing partner **Stephen Leontsinis** (see p.913) has broad experience concerning company liquidations and white-collar fraud mandates, among other matters. He heads the insolvency and disputes practice globally within Collas Crill. **Rocco Cecere** (see p.911) continues to win particularly strong praise for his knowledge of Section 238 petitions on the dissenting shareholder side. His practice also encompasses insolvency and investment fund disputes. **Strengths:** “Rocco prioritises his clients to an extraordinary extent. His understanding of germane legal precedent is second to none, and his abilities as a litigation tactician are unparalleled.” “Rocco Cecere is very commercial and great at cutting to the detail. He also has great corporate finance knowledge which puts him ahead of the pack.” “Rocco Cecere really understands the shareholder appraisal world. He and his team do a good job of making sure clients are comfortable with what’s coming up next and making sure everything works together as seamlessly as possible.” **Jennifer Colegate** (see p.911) is a well-respected lawyer in the Cayman Islands. She is especially known for her handling of contentious issues arising from liquidations and restructurings. **Strengths:** “Jennifer Colegate is whip-smart and super-responsive; she is a major asset to the team.” “Jennifer Colegate is a standout practitioner.” **Matthew Dors** (see p.911) is increasingly highlighted by interviewees for his burgeoning insolvency and restructuring practice. In this regard he has impressive recent experience in contentious proceedings relating to collapsed investment funds. **Strengths:** “Matthew Dors is an expert in his field. He is excellent to have on your team on the most complex of matters.” “Matthew Dors is a good, experienced and sophisticated lawyer.” “Matthew Dors shows strong leadership, broad knowledge of the relevant laws and subject matters, and a wealth of experience.”

## Conyers

**What the team is known for** Conyers’ Cayman office has a well-recognised team in the dispute

resolution space, with notable strengths relating to investment fund litigation and insolvency disputes. The firm is experienced in handling high-value, multi-jurisdictional cases and represents a range of corporate and private clients.

### Strengths

“They are extremely knowledgeable and responsive on even the most complex and sophisticated matters.”

“The Conyers team are extremely practical in their delivery of legal services and avoid going down every legislative rabbit hole.”

“The Conyers team are very much on top of any issue they are asked to advise on and produce sophisticated, top-tier work product.”

“Conyers has a wealth of knowledge and depth within its team, both in litigation and corporate matters, and they are also very commercial in their approach.”

**Work highlights** Conyers advised the Agricultural Development Fund of Saudi Arabia on a shareholder rights dispute with AVIVO, a Cayman Islands exempted company, and on its role in AVIVO’s subsequent winding-up proceedings.

### Notable practitioners

**Erik Bodden** is adept at handling commercial, insolvency and shareholder litigation. He often represents clients in Section 238 cases and has a fast-developing reputation in the jurisdiction. Outside his work for the firm, he is president of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association. **Strengths:** “Erik Bodden is a well-known, highly regarded practitioner who is easy to get on with, gives good advice and has a good commercial approach.” “Erik Bodden is one of the premier lawyers in the jurisdiction and always provides well-considered commercial advice.” **Jonathon Milne** has notable expertise in assisting with the enforcement of arbitral awards, restructuring matters and insolvency proceedings, for which he continues to receive praise from interviewees. He also has further experience in general commercial litigation. **Strengths:** “Jonathon Milne is great to work with and provides high-end advice, responsiveness and commercial awareness at the highest levels.” “Jonathon Milne is very responsive, and the advice he provides is considered and robust.” “Jonathon Milne is great to work with, providing very responsive and sophisticated assistance on extremely time-sensitive and complex matters.”

## Harneys

**What the team is known for** Harneys has a well-rounded Cayman dispute resolution practice and is recognised for its strong capabilities in insolvency work. It also handles restructuring matters, contractual disputes and fair-value petitions. Clients continue to benefit from the Cayman team’s enduring close ties with Harneys’ Hong Kong office, the two groups regularly working together on behalf of clients based in Greater China.

### Strengths

“Harneys’ team are commercially savvy and have good market knowledge.”

“Harneys fields great lawyers who are responsive, easy to deal with and very practical.”

“Harneys is well placed to handle complex fund and investment vehicle matters, with a deep understanding of the industry and the current legal

themes.”

**Work highlights** Harneys assisted Kaisa Group Holdings with the restructuring of its USD2.5 billion of offshore debt and its related Chapter 15 bankruptcy proceedings.

#### Notable practitioners

**Nick Hoffman** is adept at handling insolvency proceedings, commercial fraud claims, debt restructuring and investment fund disputes, among other matters. He is Harneys’ Cayman managing partner as well as its global head of litigation, insolvency and restructuring. **Strengths:** “*Nick Hoffman is a really great advocate and he is very calm and fantastic to work with. He is firm and authoritative in court.*” “*Nick gives clear and concise advice and it is easy to pick up the phone and talk to him. He is very flexible, open and commercial.*” “*Nick Hoffman is always available and he gives commercial, practical advice.*” **Ben Hobden** has wide-ranging expertise, encompassing contested winding-up petitions as well as cases relating to alleged breaches of contractual and fiduciary duty. He recently joined Harneys after leaving Forbes Hare. **Strengths:** “*Ben Hobden is responsive, intelligent and commercially minded.*” “*Ben Hobden is very commercial and he is good at distilling problems and coming up with innovative solutions.*” **Jessica Williams** is an experienced litigator who advises clients on insolvency matters, investment fund claims and shareholder and commercial disputes. Her work frequently sees her take on high-value, multi-jurisdictional mandates. **Strengths:** “*Jessica Williams is a brilliant attorney who is incredibly dedicated to clients – she is great at gaining their trust and inspiring confidence.*” “*Jessica is very bright, very thorough, shrewd, measured and calm.*” “*Jessica is extremely professional, hard-working and knowledgeable.*” **Gráinne King** was recently promoted to partner in Harneys’ litigation and insolvency practice. She is active on matters ranging from fair-value assessments to insolvency and investment fund matters. **Strengths:** “*Gráinne King is communicative and responsive, with good experience of relevant legal and procedural issues, and she is a pleasure to work with.*” “*Gráinne King is always very responsive, proactive and gets results.*”

#### Mourant

**What the team is known for** Mourant offers a highly rated Cayman dispute resolution group with extensive experience handling sensitive and high-value commercial disputes, restructurings and insolvency matters. The firm demonstrates further capabilities in multibillion-dollar fraud cases and is also very well versed in providing support to clients in the financial services sphere.

#### Strengths

“*Mourant has a terrific, collaborative and smart team.*”

“*Mourant is a very strong all-around commercial and insolvency litigation law firm with an excellent presence in the offshore legal market.*”

“*Mourant’s litigation team demonstrate a genuine dedication to providing solutions, and their communications are always prompt, clear and professional.*”

**Work highlights** Mourant was Cayman counsel to Hong Kong-based Oasis Management, the leading dissenting shareholder involved in the

contested USD2.6 billion buyout of SINA Corporation, the parent company of China’s Weibo social media site.

#### Notable practitioners

**Simon Dickson** is a highly respected lawyer in the Cayman Islands, with extensive experience representing blue-chip clients. He has considerable experience handling white-collar fraud cases, shareholder disputes and insolvency-related matters. He is also well versed in Section 238 proceedings. **Strengths:** “*Simon Dickson has deep knowledge of the law and his market. He is practical and helpful in driving issues forward.*” “*Simon Dickson is extremely bright, very focused, and he asks left-field questions which turn out to be on point.*” “*Simon Dickson is a very good insolvency lawyer and he understands the local court very well.*” **Peter Hayden** has a broad practice which sees him advise clients on asset recovery and insolvency proceedings in addition to white-collar fraud and fund-related disputes. **Strengths:** “*Peter Hayden is a winner, even in seemingly impossible litigation and insolvency situations. He is able to identify untested strategies with repeatedly successful outcomes.*” “*Peter Hayden and his team are extremely capable, have very good local knowledge and understand how local courts will act and consider things.*” **Nicholas Fox** is the Cayman practice head for litigation and insolvency. He advises several well-known clients on an impressive array of liquidation proceedings, asset recovery and white-collar fraud matters. **Strengths:** “*Nicholas Fox is an outstanding, battle-hardened litigator capable of dealing with the most difficult and problematic cases.*” “*Nicholas Fox is sensible and very commercial.*” **Christopher Harlowe** focuses his practice on restructuring and insolvency matters, and also possesses expertise in general commercial litigation. He is the global head of litigation and insolvency at Mourant. **Hector Robinson KC** has a wealth of Cayman experience and is well regarded for his handling of high-value property disputes and regulatory investigations. His practice has also seen him take on significant judicial review proceedings.

#### Band 4

##### Bedell Cristin

**What the team is known for** Bedell Cristin is a well-respected offshore law firm, and its Cayman office has wide-ranging experience in commercial litigation. It frequently handles cases arising from M&A deals and liquidations, acting for financial services players in addition to high net worth individuals, accountancy firms and clients from a range of other sectors.

#### Notable practitioners

**Laura Hatfield** heads the Cayman litigation and insolvency team. She is a respected lawyer with extensive experience handling insolvency, asset recovery and professional negligence matters.

**Strengths:** “*Laura Hatfield is a good insolvency and disputes lawyer.*” **Kai McGrielle** regularly advises clients on investment fund disputes and has further experience regarding insurance and contentious shareholder matters. He is a well-established Cayman litigator and a key member of

the team at Bedell Cristin.

##### Kobre & Kim

**What the team is known for** Kobre & Kim is a well-regarded, global onshore disputes and corporate investigations boutique law firm which is notable for its well-established Cayman Islands office. In the offshore world, it frequently assists with cross-border insolvency cases involving trust structures and asset protection schemes.

#### Strengths

“*The team at Kobre & Kim are very sophisticated in their thinking and analysis, and have real breadth of experience.*”

“*Kobre & Kim has the depth to dig into issues.*”

“*They are efficient and direct in their work and advice.*”

**Work highlights** Kobre & Kim defended Marble Ridge in litigation proceedings brought by Neiman Marcus in which Neiman Marcus alleged misconduct in Marble Ridge’s bid for certain assets of the debtors during Neiman Marcus’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

#### Notable practitioners

**Peter Tyers-Smith** advises clients on a range of white-collar fraud, trust and insolvency disputes. He has considerable experience assisting with cases throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean.

**Strengths:** “*Peter Tyers-Smith has good judgement and common sense, and he also has good business sense which helps with the orderly resolution of disputes.*” “*Peter Tyers-Smith is utterly brilliant – he knows the law inside out and he is an absolutely fantastic advocate who can explain very difficult issues in very easy-to-comprehend language.*” “*Peter Tyers-Smith’s ability to retain knowledge and communicate both verbally and in writing is second to none.*” **Ilona Groark** is notable for her growing reputation as a Cayman Islands attorney. In addition to assisting clients with liquidations and arbitrations, she is active on fraud cases and contentious trust matters. **Strengths:** “*Ilona Groark is an exceptional, hard-working lawyer who is a great strategic thinker.*” “*Ilona Groark is a very solid lawyer who is very responsive, diligent and client-focused.*” “*Ilona is super-smart, dedicated and very hard-working.*”

#### Band 5

##### Broadhurst LLC

**What the team is known for** Broadhurst is a respected Cayman Islands law firm with a thriving team of expert litigators. The team handles a wide variety of matters, including shareholder, commercial and investment fund disputes, as well as insolvency and restructuring cases. The lawyers have further expertise in regulatory, probate, personal injury and sanctions-related issues, and property and construction disputes, among other work.

#### Strengths

“*The Broadhurst team has an excellent knowledge base and an understanding of complex matters.*”

“*Broadhurst has dealt with a multitude of issues in a very satisfactory manner.*”

“*The team at Broadhurst have a great mix of skill sets that complement each other.*”

**Work highlights** Broadhurst acted for the joint liquidators of Ascentra on all matters where its primary Cayman counsel (Campbells) was unable to act due to conflicts of interest.

#### Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Kyle Broadhurst** is able to draw on many years of experience in Cayman litigation proceedings. His wide-ranging practice covers insolvency, probate, commercial and fraud disputes, with clients valuing his ability to take on complex mandates. **Strengths:** “*Kyle Broadhurst is excellent. He’s intelligent and accessible.*” “*Kyle Broadhurst is a highly respected, plain-speaking, commercial litigator with lots of experience in Cayman.*” **Ian Lambert** is a seasoned dispute resolution lawyer who possesses expertise in an array of areas, including insolvency, contractual disputes, arbitration and general commercial litigation. **Strengths:** “*Ian Lambert is very responsive, distils complex matters quickly and efficiently, and offers solutions in a commercially sound manner.*”

#### Forbes Hare

**What the team is known for** Forbes Hare has a compact disputes practice in the Cayman Islands, comprising lawyers who are highly experienced at handling insolvency and restructuring, investment fund disputes and general commercial litigation. The team is well versed in multi-jurisdictional proceedings, often coordinating with colleagues based in the BVI and Hong Kong.

#### Strengths

“*The Forbes Hare team is technical and extremely detailed; they are a safe pair of hands.*”

“*Forbes Hare are very quick, very responsive and always available.*”

“*Forbes Hare’s responsiveness is very good.*”

**Work highlights** Forbes Hare represented Aspiat Investment and Bumper East in a shareholder dispute concerning ownership of Hong Kong-listed Mayer Holdings, involving the appointment of a new board of directors and opposing the winding up of the company.

#### Notable practitioners

**Christopher Young** acts on a range of litigation proceedings and is lead partner on much of the firm’s Cayman work. He has especially notable experience advising on insolvency matters and also regularly advises on asset recovery, shareholder and contractual disputes. **Strengths:** “*Christopher Young is thoughtful, very capable and calm.*” **Alistair Abbott** is well versed in commercial litigation and handles a variety of disputes, including contentious shareholder matters, insolvencies and white-collar fraud cases. **Strengths:** “*Alistair Abbott is a supreme technician with respect to legal matters.*” “*Alistair Abbott is always well prepared and is a well-rounded lawyer both in court and out.*”

#### McGrath Tonner

**What the team is known for** McGrath Tonner has an increasingly recognised dispute resolution practice that handles a variety of matters in the Cayman Islands. The team offers considerable insolvency experience, as well as being noted for its depth of knowledge in white-collar criminal and anti-money laundering matters. The firm furthermore assists with contentious cases relating

to employment, land use, shareholder disputes and human rights issues.

#### Strengths

“*McGrath Tonner give clear instructions and answer questions directly.*”

“*McGrath Tonner have an excellent command of Cayman legislation, a good ability to find creative solutions, excellent written and oral communication skills and a good grasp of local dynamics.*”

“*McGrath Tonner has an excellent reputation for client care.*”

**Work highlights** McGrath Tonner advised a secured creditor of the China Branding Group on fraud proceedings brought against the company during its liquidation.

#### Notable practitioners

**Ben Tonner KC** is a highly regarded practitioner with many years of experience in the Cayman Islands. His litigation and insolvency activity includes matters involving liquidation, contentious employment issues and white-collar fraud. **Strengths:** “*Ben Tonner is an excellent practitioner who is very savvy and knowledgeable.*” “*Ben Tonner brings good court skills to the commercial arena and is a very effective advocate.*” “*Ben Tonner is an extremely able and versatile advocate, very hard-working and always able to put his clients at ease.*”

“*Ben Tonner is incredibly good, an excellent lawyer. He is insightful, responsive, and very effective in court.*”

#### Nelsons

**What the team is known for** Nelsons is a respected law firm with a growing disputes department. Its lawyers handle a wide variety of cases but have especially pronounced strengths in insolvency and investment fund litigation. The firm also frequently acts on significant Cayman financial services cases. In addition, it is noted as a leading team for domestic litigation proceedings, with experience in real estate and insurance matters, among other areas.

#### Strengths

“*The Nelsons team is always willing to go the extra mile.*”

“*We always receive excellent service from Nelsons and their response time is superb.*”

**Work highlights** Nelsons acted as Cayman counsel for the official receivers of the Virgil Group following disclosure of a major cryptocurrency fraud and the subsequent winding up of the group.

#### Notable practitioners

**John Harris** is a well-established figure with strong expertise in white-collar fraud, shareholder disputes and insolvency matters. He is regularly noted by his fellow lawyers as a sound choice to handle conflict-of-interest referrals. **Strengths:** “*John Harris is commercial and understands that it’s all about getting the best result for client, reaching settlement and preserving relationships, but he is comfortable being assertive when necessary and pragmatic when possible.*” “*John Harris is very easy to deal with and extremely knowledgeable in his field. He thinks on his feet and his advice is refreshingly succinct.*” “*John Harris is well regarded by other litigators. He is very wise, highly experienced and has a very varied practice.*” “*John Harris is an exceptionally bright guy, a great source of informa-*

*tion on how to conduct a case, an expert at strategy and tactics, and a creative thinker.*” **Colm Flanagan** is highly respected in the Cayman commercial litigation arena, with a practice that regularly sees him handle noteworthy insurance, insolvency and shareholder disputes. **Strengths:** “*Colm Flanagan is knowledgeable and experienced. He provides very timely advice and knows how to deal with things effectively.*” “*Colm Flanagan has a good network and can negotiate, resolve and settle matters amicably to a client’s satisfaction.*” “*Colm Flanagan is well prepared, easy to work with, has a can-do attitude and is flexible and accommodating.*” **Kate McClymont** garners enthusiastic comments from interviewees and is well known for her handling of high-profile real estate and planning disputes and probate proceedings. **Strengths:** “*Kate McClymont is a first-class professional who is greatly respected in the community and the legal profession.*” “*Kate McClymont is fantastic. She has a great range of connections. She is a brilliant lawyer and a rainmaker.*”

#### Travers Thorp Alberga Attorneys-at-Law

**What the team is known for** Travers Thorp Alberga maintains a compact litigation team in the Cayman Islands which has extensive experience in shareholder disputes. The firm is adept at handling the full range of cross-border and local disputes and regularly acts on behalf of clients based in Greater China.

#### Notable practitioners

Bhavesh Patel is a notable practitioner at Travers Thorp Alberga.

#### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Adam Crane** (see p.911) of Baker & Partners is a Canadian-qualified barrister with a growing reputation in the Cayman Islands. He is particularly known for his expertise in insolvency. He additionally acts on white-collar fraud cases, including with regard to the tracing and recovery of assets.

#### Strengths:

“*Adam Crane was prompt and efficient at cutting through the issues and getting us to a result.*”

“*Adam Crane has a strong rapport with the Cayman Islands judiciary and is a joy to work with.*”

**Guy Dilliway-Parry** heads the dispute resolution team at Priestleys. He assists clients with a range of contentious matters, including personal injury, employment and real estate litigation. Additionally, he is active on insolvency cases.

#### Strengths:

“*Guy Dilliway-Parry is an experienced lawyer and litigator, and he has impressed me with his calm, practical approach as well as his focus on the client’s best interests.*”

“*Guy Dilliway-Parry is first rate and very strong technically. A good strategist who displays excellent preparation and provides good client care.*”

“*Guy Dilliway-Parry always thinks through things carefully. He is calm and has good judgement.*”

**Hamid Khanbhai** is quickly establishing an impressive reputation among Cayman disputes lawyers. He regularly advises clients on shareholder disputes as well as multi-jurisdictional

restructuring and insolvency cases.

**Strengths:**

"Hamid Khanbhai is a pleasure to work with. His deep understanding of the law and ability to navigate complex issues have been instrumental in achieving successful outcomes."

"Hamid Khanbhai consistently goes above and beyond to provide thorough and comprehensive advice."

"Hamid Khanbhai is able to communicate and artic-

ulate his points extremely effectively, which shows he is a careful but incisive and shrewd practitioner. He is a superstar of the future."

**Katie Pearson** (see p.913) of Claritas Legal offers considerable experience in the disputes field and is able to represent clients in a broad range of matters, including insolvency, white-collar fraud and shareholder disputes.

**Strengths:**

"Katie Pearson provides high-quality output for liti-

gation matters. She is responsive, reliable and commercially flexible."

"Katie offers a hands-on service and is superbly bright, very personable, good to work with and very effective."

"Katie Pearson is excellent and a strong technical lawyer."

## Financial Services Regulatory

| Financial Services: Regulatory                          |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Leading Firms</b>                                    |  |
| <b>Band 1</b>   |  |
| Maples Group  |  |
| Walkers   |  |
| <b>Band 2</b>   |  |
| Mourant   |  |
| Ogier   |  |
| <b>Band 3</b>   |  |
| Conyers   |  |
| <b>Leading Individuals</b>                              |  |
| <b>Band 1</b>   |  |
| Frew Lucy Walkers                                       |  |
| <b>Band 2</b>   |  |
| Capewell Christopher Maples Group *                     |  |
| Dawson Tim Maples Group                                 |  |
| Galletly Sara Mourant                                   |  |
| Howarth Andrew Walkers                                  |  |
| Huckle Joanne Ogier *                                   |  |
| <b>Band 3</b>   |  |
| Colegate Peter Appleby (ORL) ◇                          |  |
| Huckle Adam Maples Group                                |  |
| Lees Elisabeth Claritas Legal (ORL) ◇ *                 |  |
| Stenson Derek Conyers                                   |  |
| <b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>                        |  |
| Liddy-Murphy Róisín Conyers                             |  |
| <b>Associates to watch</b>                              |  |
| Byers Martin Ogier *                                    |  |
| Tang Juliana Walkers                                    |  |
| * Indicates individual with profile.                    |  |
| ◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.                          |  |
| Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest. |  |

### Band 1

#### Maples Group

**What the team is known for** The Maples financial services regulatory team is highly respected for its assistance with CIMA compliance, judicial reviews and anti-money laundering matters as well as advising on data protection and foreign account tax compliance (FATCA) issues. It acts for a blue-chip client base in this field, leveraging its status as one of the fund formation powerhouses of the offshore world.

**Strengths**

"The Maples team is very responsive and practical; they don't waste your time."

"Maples' regulatory team provides clear advice on complex questions in a timely manner."

"Maples is always helpful in advising on complex structures and Cayman-related regulatory issues."

"Maples has deep knowledge of financial services, investment funds and complex business transactions, including with respect to sanctions and anti-money laundering regulations."

**Notable practitioners**

**Christopher Capewell** (see p.910) assists banks and asset managers with a wide variety of regulatory and financial services engagements. He has a strong track record of advising on compliance with various regulatory frameworks, including the Common Reporting Standard and FATCA, as well as sanctions, anti-money laundering and beneficial ownership rules. **Strengths:** "Christopher Capewell is great to work with. He is always responsive, manages his team well and provides excellent service." "Christopher Capewell is a very experienced attorney and we value working with him." **Tim Dawson** advises clients on an array of regulatory mandates, ranging from FATCA, AML and counter-terrorism financing compliance to issues arising under data protection laws. He acts for numerous big-name financial services players, including leading global banks. **Strengths:** "Tim Dawson always understands very well the kind of answers we need and always exceeds expectations." "Tim provides practical advice in a clear, timely manner, with a depth of understanding of our evolving regulatory landscape which is very helpful for clients seeking to navigate regulatory expectations." **Adam Huckle** is a key member of Maples' financial services regulatory practice who has particular expertise in assisting banks and asset managers with CIMA inspections, judicial reviews, beneficial ownership matters and providing guidance on the impact of sanctions. **Strengths:** "Adam Huckle is a fantastic lawyer with a deep understanding of the client's needs and of the regulatory landscape." "Adam has been instrumental in navigating an ever-changing regulatory framework and, more importantly, in guiding key communication and interaction with the relevant regulators."

"Adam knows when to push and when to hold back. He is a good judge of matters and is tactically astute." "He is very strong, writes extremely well, asks the right questions and he really knows his stuff. He is a true pleasure to work with."

#### Walkers

**What the team is known for** Walkers has a long-established regulatory practice that is particularly highly regarded for its expertise in Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) compliance. This work covers guidance on licensing and registration in addition to AML advice. The firm provides regulatory support to several leading private equity houses and trust companies, assisting with their preparation for strategic reviews and on-site CIMA inspections. The team is well versed in handling regulatory matters concerning data protection, virtual assets and cryptocurrency issues.

**Strengths**

"The Walkers team is able to guide us through the whole process and quickly address any of our concerns, as well explaining the regulations and the expectations of the regulator."

"The Walkers team is very responsive and understands the urgency of matters. The team does whatever it takes to get the work done."

"I find Walkers' attorneys to be responsive and thorough, and they always explain things in a clear and concise manner."

"Walkers have a good capacity to deal with complex operations, finding options that are best suited for the specific client."

"They take a thoughtful approach and thrive in situations where critical thinking is needed."

**Work highlights** The Walkers regulatory team assisted Apollo Global Management with various change of control applications, notifications, exemption requests and other CIMA reporting obligations relating to its Cayman fund launches.

**Notable practitioners**

**Lucy Frew** heads Walkers' global regulatory and risk advisory practice. She is highly sought after for her extensive experience assisting with regulatory impact assessments, as well as advising on compliance with AML regulations, sanctions,

the OECD's economic substance requirements and GDPR. Her clients include banks, insurers and asset managers, as well as fintech companies.

**Strengths:** "Lucy Frew has an incredible depth of understanding about Cayman regulations and how they are applied in the market. Her responses are always thoughtful, on-point and easily consumed by non-attorneys." "Lucy is a pleasure to work with. She is responsive, commercially aware and up to speed on the latest sanctions developments in the Cayman Islands. She provides pragmatic, actionable advice." "She is highly responsive and provides an in-depth analysis of our regulatory needs. She is able to clearly articulate CIMA's requirements and guidance in a practical manner, outlining our options, and following through for timely completion of all items." "Lucy has encyclopaedic knowledge, is very easy to work with and knows how to explain complex regulatory matters to clients."

**Andrew Howarth** is highly regarded for his expertise in dealing with a range of Cayman regulatory matters including CIMA compliance, AML, economic substance matters and data protection. He acts for global investment institutions and several clients in the sphere of digital assets. **Strengths:** "Andrew Howarth is practical and commercial. He understands the intent and expectations of the regulators as well as what market practice is and what expectations are." "Andrew Howarth provides guidance not only on the text of the regulations, but gives real-world examples of best practices based on regulatory and enforcement patterns." "Andrew Howarth has been really helpful on a number of cutting-edge initiatives." **Juliana Tang** is a senior counsel who advises on an array of regulatory compliance mandates, including AML, economic substance and beneficial ownership matters. Her practice also involves giving regulatory advice in the trust space, as well as assisting with licence applications and CIMA inspections. **Strengths:** "Juliana Tang is highly responsive, and provides detailed, clear legal analysis." "Juliana Tang adds to the Walkers team's ability to respond quickly and commercially."

## Band 2

### Mourant

**What the team is known for** The financial services regulatory practice at Mourant is noted for its capabilities in assisting with all Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) requirements, representing clients in judicial reviews as well as advising on the compliance requirements underpinning transactions. The firm is expert in handling AML, data protection and sanctions issues and also represents clients in contentious matters.

#### Strengths

"The Mourant team is knowledgeable and considerate of all the intricacies of our business when providing their advice."

"Sara Galletly and her team are among the top experts in regard to Cayman regulatory law, and are good at finding answers and practical approaches."

#### Notable practitioners

**Sara Galletly** is an esteemed Cayman Islands regulatory lawyer who has a wealth of experience advising on economic substance and anti-money

laundering requirements, as well as data protection, virtual asset service provider and sanctions issues. **Strengths:** "Sara Galletly has steered us through some difficult issues. She is very close to the pulse of things in Cayman; she is technically very strong and also pragmatic." "Sara has made herself a go-to person in the Cayman Islands for regulatory matters. She has a fantastic commercial approach, especially with new legislation, and has demonstrated her prescience in the application of new laws." "She is an exceptionally competent and knowledgeable partner with extensive regulatory experience."

### Ogier

**What the team is known for** Ogier's highly regarded financial services regulatory team handles a wide range of matters. This includes counselling clients on compliance with CIMA regulations and anti-money laundering concerns, in addition to advising on beneficial ownership and FATCA issues. The team is also adept at dealing with sanctions-related regulatory issues and assisting with regulatory matters in the digital asset space.

#### Strengths

"Ogier is a highly responsive and commercial law firm."

"Ogier has strong relationships with the regulators and can offer insight and guidance well beyond simply telling us the legislation."

"The firm fields a well-resourced team with a very commercial approach."

"The Ogier team is on top of all issues and is able to provide practical recommendations on complex matters."

#### Notable practitioners

**Joanne Huckle** (see p.912) is head of the investment funds regulatory team at Ogier. She has deep experience assisting asset managers and fund administrators with an extensive list of matters in this space, including regulatory reviews and due diligence reporting as well as beneficial ownership analyses and advising on sanctions-related issues. **Strengths:** "She is detailed, keenly aware of the applicable laws depending upon the issues being addressed, and can help craft advice with a practical and commercial perspective." "Joanne Huckle and the Ogier team display first-class knowledge with a willingness to give a detailed opinion that allows me to progress any matter with peace of mind." "We love working with Joanne Huckle because we are always sure to get efficient, reliable advice." **Martin Byers** (see p.910) is a counsel in Ogier's financial services regulatory practice. He assists with a range of contentious and non-contentious matters ranging from CIMA compliance and registration to AML, economic substance and beneficial ownership matters. **Strengths:** "Martin Byers is a consummate professional who brings knowledge and expertise to the difficult arena of regulatory law."

## Band 3

### Conyers

**What the team is known for** Conyers has a strong regulatory team which is recognised for its skills

in advising on matters relevant to trusts. It also handles a number of FATCA regulatory matters in Cayman and the BVI, as well as providing guidance on insurance regulations and AML legislation. In addition, the department assists with beneficial ownership, sanctions and data protection mandates. The team is further experienced in addressing regulatory requirements relating to decentralised autonomous organisations (DAO) and virtual asset service providers.

#### Strengths

"Conyers' lawyers have great insights and broad experience."

"Conyers' insurance, financial and regulatory team has the combined local, international and interdisciplinary knowledge required to successfully handle complex matters in a professional, commercial, timely, pragmatic and cost-effective manner."

"Conyers consistently delivers a professional, commercial and highly responsive service on each and every instruction."

**Work highlights** Conyers assisted a US high net worth individual with the regulatory considerations pertaining to their establishment of a Cayman-domiciled foundation complying with the Cayman Islands Virtual Asset Service Provider Act and economic substance legislation.

#### Notable practitioners

**Derek Stenson** is an experienced lawyer with particular regulatory expertise concerning AML inspections conducted by the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority. He also assists with regulatory compliance in the insurance sector.

**Strengths:** "Derek is a pleasure to deal with and has a very strong breadth of experience." "He is an extremely knowledgeable and astute lawyer who is well versed in the subject and highly dependable, consistently delivering solid, clear, commercial and pragmatic guidance." **Róisín Liddy-Murphy** is head of Conyers' regulatory and risk advisory practice. She advises clients on a range of regulatory work, including FATCA, beneficial ownership and anti-money laundering issues, as well as data protection and cybersecurity matters. **Strengths:** "She is exceptional under pressure and always delivers well-considered advice."

## Other Ranked Lawyers

**Peter Colegate** is global head of technology and innovation at Appleby. Within this space he has extensive experience concerning regulatory issues pertinent to fintech and blockchain. He is also well versed in providing counsel to financial services clients on data protection issues.

**Elisabeth Lees** (see p.912) co-founded Claritas Legal in 2022, having spent more than a decade as an in-house lawyer with the Cayman Islands government. Most recently this saw her take on the role of national coordinator of its anti-money laundering steering group. She has a vast array of experience concerning white-collar criminal and financial services regulatory matters.

#### Strengths:

"Elisabeth Lees has a meticulous eye for detail. She is tireless on her clients' behalf, has a good tactical sense and is very thorough."

"Elisabeth Lees is extremely responsive. She also

*understands tasks swiftly and can review large amounts of complex material and then provide detailed analysis and pragmatic advice on how to proceed.”*

## CAYMAN ISLANDS: An Introduction to Investment Funds

Contributed by Stuarts Humphries

### Introduction

The Cayman Islands have become the leading offshore jurisdiction for the establishment of mutual funds and private funds. This phenomenal growth has been due, in part, to the use of innovative legislation and the absence of taxation and exchange controls. This, together with the presence of sophisticated and world-class professional service providers, has resulted in the jurisdiction's reputation for responsible supervision and regulation of funds.

As at Q3 2023, there were 13,008 mutual funds registered with the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority in the Cayman Islands (CIMA). This was an increase from the 12,995 mutual funds registered with CIMA in 2022.

There were 16,530 private funds registered with CIMA at Q3 2022. This was an increase from the 15,662 private funds registered with CIMA in 2022, representing the continual growth of the private fund market in the Cayman Islands.

### Virtual Assets

The Cayman Islands have enacted the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act (As Revised) to create a framework for virtual asset products and service providers, and in doing so, CIMA is welcoming these products and related entities and has created a regulatory framework from which these entities may thrive.

### Mutual Funds

The Mutual Funds Act (As Revised) (the “Mutual Funds Act”) applies to all open-ended funds (funds in which the investors have the right to redeem their interests at their option), except those specifically excluded from regulation. The definition of “equity interest” under the Mutual Funds Act was amended to include a digital representation of interest, so tokenised funds are also regulated by CIMA.

### Types of Regulated Mutual Funds

The main type of mutual fund that is subject to regulation and supervision under the Mutual Funds Act by CIMA is the Registered Mutual Fund, which requires an initial minimum equity interest purchasable by an investor of at least USD100,000.

Where the fund is not a registered mutual fund and is not excluded from regulation, it must either apply for a mutual fund licence or apply to be regulated as an administered mutual fund. The only exception to this is the single investor fund, which is not considered a mutual fund and is not required to be regulated.

Master funds of regulated feeder funds which issue equitable interests which are redeemable at the option of the feeder fund

must also register with CIMA in accordance with the Mutual Funds Act.

Finally, an open-ended fund with 15 or fewer investors who have the ability to appoint or remove the operator of the fund referred to as “limited investor funds” are required to register with CIMA in accordance with the Mutual Funds Act.

### Requirements for Regulated Mutual Funds

Regulated Mutual Funds are required to do the following.

- Submit to CIMA a current copy of the fund offering document (other than a limited investor fund or a master fund). The offering document must describe the equity interests offered to investors in all material respects and must contain such information as is necessary to enable a prospective investor to make an informed decision as to whether or not to purchase the equity interests.

- Submit to CIMA updated documentation/information where a fund makes any changes, or becomes aware of any changes, that materially affects any information submitted to CIMA within 21 days of such change(s).

- Submit to CIMA an annual fund return, annual audit, and file audited accounts within six months of the end of the fund's financial year. This will involve appointing an auditor in the Cayman Islands.

- Comply with CIMA regulatory measures.

- Where the fund is structured as a company, have a minimum of two directors and ensure each director/controller is registered with CIMA.

- Pay a prescribed annual registration fee.

Mutual funds are also subject to the automatic exchange of information, anti-money laundering and data privacy requirements of the Cayman Islands. Mutual funds must have appropriate written policies and procedures in place, including, for example, anti-money laundering, data protection, and operational and automatic exchange of information policies. Operators and employees of mutual funds must participate in anti-money laundering training in compliance with the anti-money laundering regulations.

### Private Funds

The Private Funds Act (as revised) of the Cayman Islands (the “Private Funds Act”) applies to all closed-ended funds (funds in which the investors do not have the right to redeem their interests at their option). The Private Funds Act specifically excludes from regulation certain “non-fund arrangements” which include: pension funds; joint ventures; structured finance vehicles; preferred equity financing vehicles and holding vehicles.

## Types of Regulated Private Funds

Closed-ended private funds which fall under the definition of “private fund” pursuant to the Private Funds Act are required to register with CIMA. The Private Funds Act also provides for “alternative investment vehicles” and “restricted scope private funds”.

A restricted scope private fund is a private fund that is an exempted limited partnership that is managed or advised by a person who is licensed or registered by CIMA or authorised or registered by a recognised overseas regulatory authority and in which all of the investors are non-retail in nature, being either high net worth persons or sophisticated persons.

## Registration Under the Private Funds Act

The Private Funds Act sets out a registration process for private funds which involves the filing of prescribed details with CIMA and payment of an annual fee. Although the Private Funds Act does not require the filing of a full offering memorandum in relation to a private fund, CIMA has issued guidance on the contents of a private fund’s offering materials, so in practice a form of offering document is required.

## Requirements for Regulated Private Funds

Private Funds are required to do the following.

- Submit to CIMA a current copy of the offering memorandum/summary of terms/marketing material (as applicable) that must contain the required information as prescribed by CIMA.

- Submit to CIMA updated documentation/information where a fund makes any changes, or becomes aware of any changes, that materially affects any information submitted to CIMA within 21 days of such change(s).

- Submit to CIMA an annual fund return, annual audit and file audited accounts within six months of the end of the fund’s financial year. This will involve appointing an auditor in the Cayman Islands.

- Comply with the prescribed operating conditions including valuation, safekeeping of assets, cash monitoring and identification of securities requirements and CIMA regulatory measures.

- Have a minimum of two natural persons acting as operators of the fund.

- Pay a prescribed annual registration fee.

Private funds are also subject to the automatic exchange of information, anti-money laundering and data privacy requirements of the Cayman Islands. Private funds must have appropriate written policies and procedures in place including, for example, anti-money laundering, data protection, operational and automatic exchange of information policies. Operators and employees of mutual funds must participate in anti-money laundering training in compliance with the anti-money laundering regulations.

## Investment Funds

| Investment Funds   |
|--|
| <b>Leading Firms</b>   |
| <b>Band 1</b>  |
| Maples Group   |
| Walkers  |
| <b>Band 2</b>  |
| Mourant  |
| Ogier  |
| <b>Band 3</b>  |
| Campbells  |
| Carey Olsen  |
| <b>Band 4</b>  |
| Harneys  |
| Stuarts Humphries  |
| <b>Band 5</b>  |
| Appleby  |
| Bedell Cristin   |
| Collas Crill   |
| Conyers  |
| <small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>                    |
| <small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small> |

### Band 1

#### Maples Group

**What the team is known for** Maples is a market-leading, Cayman-headquartered law firm with a long history of involvement in multi-jurisdictional

| Investment Funds                |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Eminent Practitioners</b>    |                                   |
| <b>Eminent Practitioners</b>    | Pierce Ingrid Walkers             |
| Green Jonathan Maples Group     |                                   |
| <b>Leading Individuals</b>      |                                   |
| <b>Band 1</b>                   | <b>Band 4</b>                     |
| Bergstrom James Ogier *         | Craig Alan Campbells              |
| Lomax Neal Mourant              | Huckle Joanne Ogier *             |
| Williams Caroline Walkers       | Humphries Chris Stuarts Humphries |
| <b>Band 2</b>                   | Lim Melissa Walkers               |
| Ashworth Julian Maples Group    | Spencer Richard Campbells         |
| Cunningham Jo Maples Group      | <b>Band 5</b>                     |
| Rees Gwyneth Maples Group       | Alla Sailaja Appleby              |
| Richardson Michael Maples Group | Allison Jason Walkers             |
| Rogers Nick Ogier *             | Barker Andrew Walkers             |
| <b>Band 3</b>                   | Dixon Grant Maples Group          |
| Bomford Jeremy Maples Group     | Kruger Bradley Ogier *            |
| Bullmore Nick Carey Olsen       | Morris Joss Bedell Cristin        |
| Dean Sheryl Maples Group *      | Savage Justin Ogier *             |
| Farley Jarrod Carey Olsen       | Skotnicki Daniella Harneys        |
| Isbister Hayden Mourant         | Taber Matt Harneys                |
| Pham Catherine Mourant          | <b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>  |
| Subiotto Giorgio Ogier *        | Bell Natalie Collas Crill *       |
| Thomas Simon Campbells          | Smith James Harneys               |

mandates. The firm provides high-end advice on transactional, regulatory and compliance matters. It represents many high-profile clients, including

several of the world’s leading venture capital and private equity firms, guiding them on all aspects of the funds business, including the structuring

and launch of hedge, private equity, hybrid and private debt funds.

#### Strengths

*"The Maples team is very knowledgeable, professional, quick and commercial."*

*"Maples is great. As a firm, it can allocate its substantial resources effectively and appropriately."*

*"Maples represents a huge portion of the industry and has outstanding commercial knowledge and awareness."*

*"Maples fields highly experienced lawyers who are able to navigate complex issues, synthesise information and provide practical advice."*

**Work highlights** Maples advised Advent on the USD25 billion fund-raising for its tenth global private equity fund.

#### Notable practitioners

**Jonathan Green** is widely recognised for his work assisting with the formation of hedge and private equity funds. He also has considerable experience advising on regulatory issues in the investment fund space. A well-established figure in the Cayman Islands, he is also global managing partner at Maples. **Julian Ashworth** is a well-rated lawyer with extensive experience advising clients on Cayman-domiciled hedge and private equity funds. He regularly assists with fund formation and structuring. **Jo Cunningham** maintains an impressive profile in the Cayman funds space, with expertise in both hedge and private equity mandates. Her recent experience includes several very high-value fund formations as well as assisting with downstream transactions.

**Strengths:** *"Jo Cunningham knows the market well and advises incredibly sophisticated clients."* *"Jo Cunningham is extremely responsive and combines unparalleled analytical capabilities with a strong commercial sense and awareness of market terms."* *"Jo Cunningham will proactively solve problems in complex regulatory and contractual circumstances rather than simply providing advice regarding the legal position."* **Gwyneth Rees** has considerable experience concerning the formation of high-value venture capital and hedge funds and is a frequent counsel to many of the world's leading asset managers. **Strengths:** *"Gwyneth Rees is a highly skilled lawyer. She is a great communicator, and is lightning-quick in her responsiveness."* *"Gwyneth is great. She is a subject matter expert, very responsive, very good at the law and also commercial."* Global head of funds and investment management **Michael Richardson** maintains a distinguished reputation in the private equity and hedge fund spaces. He is well respected by his fellow lawyers and widely viewed as one of the leading advisers in this field. **Strengths:** *"Michael Richardson is top-notch in all aspects of his practice."* **Jeremy Bomford** has a strong reputation in Cayman and is well versed in the launch of both hedge and private equity funds. In addition to fund formation matters he is equally accomplished at downstream transactions. **Sheryl Dean** (see p.911) is a well-established lawyer in the Cayman Islands. She is especially well versed in the structuring of private equity funds.

**Strengths:** *"Sheryl Dean is an extremely smart, creative thinker and good at cutting to the chase. She doesn't over-complicate or over-lawyer things and is both very client-friendly and solution-oriented."* *"Sheryl Dean is good at problem-solving, easy to work with and good in complex, time-constrained scenarios."* **Grant Dixon** has considerable expertise in the investment fund space. He is adept at advising clients with regard to high-value private equity funds, as well as assisting with aircraft leasing funds.

#### Walkers

**What the team is known for** Walkers is a top-rated offshore law firm with an exceptional reputation for its Cayman investment fund practice. The team excels in all aspects of fund-related advice, including the formation and combination of funds, as well as their launch and restructuring. It possesses an enviable client list that features several big-name asset managers and investors. The firm also maintains a very strong reputation among many of the leading onshore law firms for investment fund matters.

#### Strengths

*"Walkers has an outstanding grasp on all aspects of fund formation in the Cayman Islands."*

*"They are my first call for any complex matter."*

*"Walkers is knowledgeable, up to date on the latest Cayman Islands developments, and very capable of handling complex and sophisticated structures and matters."*

*"The team always knows what's going on in the market, and is happy to help talk through commercially sensible ways to tackle issues."*

#### Notable practitioners

**Ingrid Pierce** has long-standing experience assisting clients with all aspects of Cayman investment funds. She serves as global managing partner of Walkers and is also head of the Cayman Islands funds practice. **Strengths:** *"Ingrid is particularly effective in that she has good commercial sense and a quick understanding of risk. She is also extremely bright in assessing risk situations and is very responsive."* *"She is a phenomenal lawyer and she is hugely involved in steering developments in the offshore industry."* **Caroline Williams** maintains an extensive Cayman fund practice that sees her advising on private equity as well as hedge fund structures. Her recent experience encompasses a variety of high-value fund structuring and formation mandates. **Strengths:** *"Caroline Williams is always thoughtful, commercial and open to thinking through creative solutions to any challenges."* *"Caroline is great to work with, and is always helpful and responsive."* *"Caroline is simply the best Cayman attorney that I work with. I reach out to her for everything Cayman-related. She is always responsive and is sharp in her analysis."* **Melissa Lim** has experience relating to a wide variety of asset classes, including private equity, hedge and venture capital. She also has notable expertise advising on downstream transactions. **Strengths:** *"Melissa is in a league of her own and is my first port of call for Cayman Islands private equity fund formation. She is commercial, responsive and measured; I sleep soundly at night knowing Melissa works on my matters."* *"Melissa Lim's depth of technical knowledge is unmatched. She is very responsive and a pleasure to work with."* **Jason Allison** is a respected Cayman lawyer who receives plaudits for his wealth of knowledge regarding hedge, venture capital and private equity funds. He assists

with downstream transactions in addition to fund formation. **Strengths:** *"Jason is commercially sensitive and responsive."* *"Jason Allison is an exceptional attorney and he knows the ins and outs of fund formation."* **Andrew Barker** is a key member of Walkers' global investment funds practice with specific expertise in the structuring and formation of venture capital and private equity funds as well as acting on business combinations and mergers in this space. **Strengths:** *"Andrew Barker is always excellent, always responsive, and always a great partner for our clients."* *"Andrew Barker is superb – he is extremely responsive, technically excellent and commercially oriented, as well as being a very nice person to deal with."* *"Andrew always provides timely and helpful support."* *"We are very happy with the work that Andrew provides."*

## Band 2

#### Mourant

**What the team is known for** Mourant is a prominent Channel Islands law firm with a much-admired Cayman office. It has notable strength in private equity, hybrid and private credit fund formation. In addition, several members of the funds team are also active in the buyouts sphere. It commands considerable respect for its ability to assist with all aspects of the fund life-cycle and is often called upon to counsel clients on fund regulatory matters.

#### Strengths

*"They provide risk-adjusted commercial legal advice, instead of just reading out the black-letter Cayman law."*

*"I can always count on them, no matter how tight the deadline is."*

*"I am always impressed by the depth of knowledge of the Mourant attorneys and the fact that excellence is so consistent across the law firm."*

*"The Mourant team has strength in depth and so can handle the most complex matters for the largest fund sponsors."*

#### Notable practitioners

**Neal Lomax** is noted for his many years of experience in the Cayman market and his deep relationships with several major clients. His work spans open and closed-end funds, including private equity and hedge funds, with regular engagements on significant fund launches. **Strengths:** *"Neal Lomax has one of the smartest offshore legal minds when it comes to legal work and investment funds. He is extremely commercial and understands the nuances of complex transactions."* Cayman managing partner **Hayden Isbister** is a leading lawyer who is regularly noted for his fund formation expertise. **Strengths:** *"Hayden Isbister is very commercial, very smart, and very responsive."* *"Hayden is a great attorney in the Cayman fund space, with a strong team of associates supporting him."* *"He is great with clients – very responsive and practical."* **Catherine Pham** is well regarded among commentators in the Cayman Islands and further afield, being noted for her deep expertise in fund launches within the private equity and venture capital spaces. She is well versed in representing major asset management clients. **Strengths:** *"Catherine Pham is fantastic because*

she is smart, commercial, very responsive and will find solutions." "Catherine Pham is very commercial, responsive and knowledgeable."

## Ogier

**What the team is known for** Ogier maintains a sizeable and highly regarded funds team in the Cayman Islands. The firm acts for a broad range of investment management clients and onshore law firms, including several hailing from Latin America. It is well versed in all aspects of fund structures, including their formation, launch and regulation, and the team is recommended for its proficiency in both open and closed-end funds, as well as hedge funds and venture capital fund formation and restructuring.

### Strengths

"Ogier has always provided professional and helpful funds advice on a range of complex matters."

"All attorneys on my matters are technically sound, with a lot of experience to be able to advise on any twist or turn that comes up. The team also responds without delay, always."

"Ogier is extremely practical and commercially minded."

"Ogier is very client-centric, meaning they take the extra effort to get to know our business and to be our advisers not only on legal matters, but also on commercial issues."

"The Ogier team demonstrates very strong depth and breadth, with a wide range of skills, knowledge and perspectives, allowing them to effectively address complex and challenging issues."

**Work highlights** Ogier advised DeFi Alliance on the formation and launch of a Cayman Islands closed-ended feeder fund structured as an exempted limited partnership and targeting investments in digital assets and start-ups.

### Notable practitioners

**James Bergstrom** (see p.910) has a wealth of experience in the investment fund space. He is a respected lawyer who maintains a well-established funds practice in the Cayman Islands. He is active in private equity fund formation as well as in providing regulatory support on funds matters.

**Strengths:** "James Bergstrom shows excellent creativity and has a wide base of historical knowledge regarding the development of the Cayman funds market." "He is very knowledgeable on Cayman law."

**Nick Rogers** (see p.914) is especially known for his focus on hedge fund issues. He is also equally capable of assisting asset managers with private equity fund formation, as well as fund regulatory work and downstream transactions.

**Strengths:** "Nick Rogers at Ogier is a really good solid lawyer with lots of experience." **Giorgio Subiotta** (see p.914) heads the Latin America team. He is a well-known and highly experienced Cayman attorney who regularly assists with the launch, structuring and merger of private equity funds, in addition to advising on regulatory matters in the investment management space. **Strengths:** "Giorgio Subiotta provides exceptional service and demonstrates a high level of professionalism and expertise." "Giorgio Subiotta and his team are extremely knowledgeable about Cayman law and regulations, and they have the ability to summarise issues and explain the challenges we face in a clear manner." **Joanne Huckle** (see p.912) is

highlighted in connection with open-ended and private equity funds, including in regard to fund launches. She has additional experience advising on regulatory matters pertinent to asset managers. **Strengths:** "Joanne Huckle is very responsive, practical and pragmatic. She is able to be so practical and pragmatic because she has such a great understanding of the law." "Joanne is very good. She covers funds and regulatory matters. She is a very competent lawyer and a very nice person to deal with." "Ogier's Joanne Huckle is very prudent and adept at applying law in a way that also reflects the client's commercial needs." **Bradley Kruger** (see p.912) is a seasoned lawyer who handles a broad range of investment fund mandates in addition to his responsibilities as head of the Cayman corporate team. **Strengths:** "Bradley Kruger is a great resource and is extremely practical." "Bradley Kruger brings a lot of experience and contacts. He helps us identify areas that might be pain points in the future, showing a good level of foresight and industry knowledge. He is also very responsive to enquiries." **Justin Savage** (see p.914) has a particular focus on hedge funds, assisting with launches as well as regulatory concerns. His recent work has included mandates relating to the restructuring of private equity funds. **Strengths:** "I am always impressed with Justin Savage's advice, which is always on-point and provides a good commercial basis to work from, in addition to being spot-on in terms of legal technicalities." "Justin Savage has a practical and commercial approach that does not sacrifice the soundness of his legal advice."

## Band 3

### Campbells

**What the team is known for** Campbells has a distinguished investment funds practice which is often highlighted for its particular expertise in venture capital matters, where it has a considerable market share. Lawyers within the team are noted for their experience handling regulatory issues as well as blockchain and fintech fund structures.

### Strengths

"The firm provides very practical business advice in addition to detailed legal analysis."

"Campbells is very business-oriented and comes up with practical solutions to issues."

"We receive very prompt, thorough advice on a multitude of issues and Campbells takes a practical approach to providing counsel."

"The strengths I would highlight for Campbells are depth of knowledge, resourcefulness and efficiency."

**Work highlights** Campbells assisted Kaszek Ventures with the formation of two venture capital funds, which raised a combined total of USD1 billion in investment capital. The scope of the firm's advice covered investor relations as well as various regulatory matters.

### Notable practitioners

**Simon Thomas** has wide-ranging experience in fund formation and regulatory matters, with especially notable expertise in private equity and venture capital funds. His recent activity includes

advising funds and fund managers on digital asset and cryptocurrency matters. He has been based in the Cayman Islands for over a decade.

**Strengths:** "Simon Thomas offers comprehensive, on-the-spot advice in a very digestible manner. He is able to accommodate tight deadlines and is pleasant to interact with." "We enjoy working with Simon Thomas; he is smart and practical." **Alan Craig** heads Campbells' corporate group, combining his work on insurance M&A with an active investment fund practice. He regularly advises on the establishment of private equity and venture capital funds as well as fund-related regulatory matters, acting for an array of well-known names in the investment funds space. **Richard Spencer** is active on an array of matters, including the restructuring of investment funds, in addition to fintech and crypto fund formation and crisis management. **Strengths:** "Richard Spencer is one of the leading corporate and fintech partners in the Cayman Islands and has a wealth of knowledge on all manner of corporate matters." "Richard is an expert in financial services laws and regulation in the Cayman Islands."

### Carey Olsen

**What the team is known for** Standout Channel Islands law firm Carey Olsen has a well-recognised investment funds team in the Cayman Islands whose advice encompasses an array of asset classes. This includes real estate, venture capital, private equity, crypto and hedge funds. The firm regularly assists with fund formation and registration in addition to providing regulatory support.

### Strengths

"Carey Olsen has always been very responsive and is able to find solutions to all of our questions."

"They know the funds sector well and are familiar with all products. They get straight to the point without wasting time."

"The firm fields highly experienced lawyers who are able to navigate complex issues, synthesise information and provide practical advice."

"The Carey Olsen team consistently demonstrate a high level of service and responsiveness, which greatly contributes to the efficiency and success of any engagement."

"We chose Carey Olsen for the firm's attentiveness to our needs, its quick ability to learn our complex and distinct business, the excellent customer service and ability to execute on a variety of tasks and keep us ahead of various filing deadlines."

**Work highlights** Carey Olsen assisted with the formation and launch of the Israel Secondary Fund III, co-ordinating registration of the fund with the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority.

### Notable practitioners

**Nick Bullmore** combines his considerable transactional practice with advice on the structuring and launch of a wide variety of investment funds. A well-established lawyer in the market, he currently acts as Cayman managing partner of Carey Olsen. **Strengths:** "Nick Bullmore is simply the brightest and most responsive Cayman lawyer I have worked with." "Nick is very responsive and has great market knowledge." **Jarrod Farley** has a broad practice in which he provides guidance to a large number of asset management clients.

He is also widely noted for his capabilities in fund formation and in providing regulatory support.

**Strengths:** *"Jarrod Farley is very commercial and knowledgeable on the law." "Jarrod Farley is smart and can communicate in such a way that his knowledge is demonstrated and ultimately becomes useful for our transactional investment fund business and legal decisions." "Jarrod is a highly knowledgeable and skilled lawyer. His deep understanding of the law and ability to navigate complex legal issues is truly impressive."*

#### Band 4

##### Harneys

**What the team is known for** Harneys has a well-regarded Cayman investment funds team which advises on all aspects of fund formation, combinations and restructuring. It has notable experience handling fund regulatory matters and further benefits from the firm's well-established presence in the British Virgin Islands (BVI). The firm has considerable experience representing Latin American clients and is increasingly active on crypto funds.

##### Strengths

*"Harneys' lawyers are true experts and have been able to answer every question and assist with every matter, with ease."*

*"Not only does Harneys have an extremely quick response rate, but the firm also provides a real answer immediately."*

##### Notable practitioners

**Daniella Skotnicki** is notable for her increasingly impressive reputation in the Cayman Islands investment funds market. She has considerable expertise in advising asset managers on fund formation matters. **Strengths:** *"Daniella is very good – she is an excellent lawyer."* **Matt Taber** is well regarded for his work advising on fund formation and fund regulation mandates. He is a well-known lawyer and a key figure on many of the firm's most impressive Cayman fund mandates. **James Smith** is an up-and-coming partner at Harneys who advises on the formation of open and closed-end funds in addition to cryptocurrency funds. He is increasingly involved in providing assistance to Latin American clients. **Strengths:** *"James Smith is extremely responsive, with a deep knowledge of everything we need. He is helpful in navigating the balance between meeting the legal requirements and the business needs." "James Smith is very good. He provides quick turnaround, is very technical and he comes up with various innovative options." "James never fails to provide the best support. With all the patience in the world, he is a breath of fresh air to work with."*

##### Stuarts Humphries

**What the team is known for** Stuarts Humphries is a well-established Cayman law firm which is known for its extensive experience advising on a wide variety of investment funds. This includes mutual funds, private equity and hedge funds as well as funds focused on digital assets. The team provides comprehensive support on fund establishment, structuring and restructuring, as well as regulatory and compliance issues.

##### Strengths

*"The firm handles very complex matters and has expertise with crypto."*

*"Stuarts Humphries' response time was exceptional and they made themselves available to us with immediacy."*

*"The team at Stuarts Humphries meets all time-frames and is very responsive."*

**Work highlights** Stuarts assisted Meow Technologies with the formation of a USD200 million fund issuing redeemable tokens instead of shares and thus requiring registration under the Cayman Islands' Virtual Asset Service Providers Act.

##### Notable practitioners

**Chris Humphries** is well liked by onshore lawyers and his clients in the asset management industry. He advises on fund formation and restructuring as well as an array of transactional and regulatory matters. Having been based in the Cayman Islands for close to two decades, he remains active on client work in addition to his responsibilities as managing director of Stuarts Humphries. **Strengths:** *"Chris Humphries is very responsive and has extensive knowledge of Cayman Islands investment funds." "Chris Humphries has been a respected presence on the island for a long time."*

#### Band 5

##### Appleby

**What the team is known for** Appleby is a significant player in the global investment funds space. The team in the Cayman Islands regularly advises on the formation of hedge, private equity and private credit funds, and is also increasingly active in the digital assets space. The firm is also active on regulatory and compliance work as well as fund structuring.

##### Strengths

*"Appleby is very responsive and on top of any matters they help with, consistently showing excellent judgement as well as creative and fast thinking."*

*"Appleby takes a commercial attitude to business and is willing to work with clients as they evolve."*

*"Appleby provides accurate, practical advice and timely responses."*

**Work highlights** Appleby advised Negev Capital Investments on the formation of a USD30 million fund investing in the healthcare and biotech sectors.

##### Notable practitioners

Appleby's Cayman head of funds **Sailaja Alla** is particularly appreciated for her expertise in the formation of private equity and private credit funds, as well as funds investing in cryptocurrencies and other digital assets. **Strengths:** *"Sailaja Alla is a strong lawyer with excellent client relationship skills, and she explains things in a clear manner." "Ms Alla is an excellent lawyer and is always quick to respond to any questions or issues." "Sailaja is knowledgeable, responsive, reliable and great to work with."*

##### Bedell Cristin

**What the team is known for** Bedell Cristin offers an experienced investment funds team in the Cayman Islands which has expertise in a range of asset classes. It assists with the full fund life-

cycle, including regulatory and compliance concerns. Recent work highlights include advising on a number of Shari'a-compliant and cryptocurrency funds.

##### Strengths

*"The team at Bedell Cristin is knowledgeable and efficient."*

*"Bedell Cristin are very prompt in their responses."*

*"We always feel that our matters are well covered and well handled."*

##### Notable practitioners

**Joss Morris** is a popular lawyer who has a wide range of experience in the Cayman investment fund space. He regularly advises clients on fund formation, including with regard to Shari'a compliant funds, as well as acting on joint ventures and investment transactions. **Strengths:** *"Joss Morris is effective at taking charge of a matter, so you know you can rely on him."*

##### Collas Crill

**What the team is known for** Collas Crill has a well-reputed Cayman Islands investment funds team with considerable experience advising on fund formation and registration as well as providing regulatory support. It is also well versed in assisting with investments into funds and fund restructuring work. The firm acts for a number of significant investment managers.

##### Strengths

*"Collas Crill's knowledge and advice on investment fund structures is exemplary."*

*"Collas Crill has provided invaluable advice and shared their experience regarding how the legal documents should be drafted to comply to the current legal and compliance regulations."*

*"Collas Crill is contactable and responsive when we need urgent advice and review."*

**Work highlights** Collas Crill assisted with formation of the Velox Arbitrage Fund, set up to seek out arbitrage opportunities in the digital asset and cryptocurrency markets.

##### Notable practitioners

**Natalie Bell** (see p.910) is an up-and-coming partner with experience advising on fund formation, fund finance and fund restructuring work as well as assisting with downstream transactions. Based in the Cayman office of Collas Crill, she is increasingly highlighted as a go-to figure in this space. **Strengths:** *"Natalie is extremely knowledgeable and responsive, and she's great to work with." "Natalie Bell's advice across corporate and fund services is exemplary." "Natalie Bell is an excellent lawyer. She is technically strong and a problem solver."*

##### Conyers

**What the team is known for** The Cayman Islands office of Conyers is home to a comprehensive investment funds practice that regularly assists clients with respect to private equity, venture capital and hedge funds. The team has extensive experience handling fund formation and related regulatory and compliance issues, and includes leading international investment management institutions among its clients.

##### Notable practitioners

**Matthew Stocker**, head of Cayman corporate practice, is a key contact at Conyers.

Real Estate

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| <b>Real Estate</b>                                      |
| <b>Leading Firms</b>                                    |
| <b>Band 1</b>   |
| Appleby   |
| <b>Band 2</b>   |
| Bedell Cristin  |
| <b>Band 3</b>   |
| Campbells   |
| Collas Crill  |
| Ritch & Conolly   |
| <b>Band 4</b>   |
| Hive Law  |
| HSM Chambers  |
| Priestleys  |
| <b>Leading Individuals</b>                              |
| <b>Band 1</b>   |
| Jamieson Ian Bedell Cristin                             |
| Johnson Adam Appleby                                    |
| Klein Norman Appleby                                    |
| <b>Band 2</b>   |
| Berry Gina Collas Crill*                                |
| Lee Lily Campbells                                      |
| Loutas George Hive Law                                  |
| <b>Band 3</b>   |
| Charlton Angus Ritch & Conolly                          |
| DaCosta Linda HSM Chambers                              |
| Priestley Daniel Priestleys                             |
| Rowe Stuart McGrath Tonner (ORL) ◇                      |
| <b>Associates to watch</b>                              |
| Eagleson Ben Boddens (ORL) ◇                            |
| Hemus Nick Priestleys                                   |
| Swallow Tim Appleby                                     |
| * Indicates individual with profile.                    |
| ◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.                          |
| Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest. |

**Band 1**

**Appleby**

**What the team is known for** Appleby has a leading real estate practice in the Cayman Islands, advising clients on a variety of residential, hospitality and commercial developments. The team has extensive experience concerning luxury resorts and the real estate aspects of major infrastructure projects. It often advises major banks on real estate finance matters, as well as representing high net worth individuals in the acquisition and disposal of Cayman properties. Other clients include strata corporations.

**Strengths**

"Appleby is the law firm to go to for real estate and corporate finance. They have a very experienced team which has exposure to the highest level of transactions."

"The firm is extraordinarily responsive and adaptable. They can handle anything I throw at them."

"Appleby's strength and depth in the real estate arena are unmatched."

"Appleby is always on top of the market and keeps up-to-date with regulatory matters."

**Work highlights** Appleby advised Lacovia, a strata corporation, on a major redevelopment project encompassing approximately 100 apartments.

**Notable practitioners**

**Adam Johnson** is a leading real estate lawyer in the Cayman Islands and has a very strong reputation in the market. He frequently assists with major development projects, as well as real estate finance matters. He has experience relating to a wide range of asset types including residential, hospitality and office properties. **Strengths:** "Adam is a pleasure to work with. He is extremely knowledgeable, approachable and commercially focused. He is responsive, smart and delivers great results while progressing transactions in a collegiate and commercial manner." "I consider Adam to be the go-to lawyer in the Cayman Islands for any real estate-related work. He is professional, thorough and extremely efficient." "There is no lawyer I trust more to masterfully handle the most complex of property matters." Cayman Islands managing partner **Norman Klein** is an experienced and respected figure in the real estate market. He regularly advises on major real estate development and finance matters. He is also notable for his knowledge of hotel and resort properties.

**Strengths:** "Norman has years of experience and I consider him the pre-eminent real estate attorney in Cayman. He is informative when changes to the law occur, and anticipates and explains in simple terms emerging risks or opportunities." "Norm Klein has experience of international transactions and is very highly respected in Cayman; he is very knowledgeable." **Tim Swallow** is a notable senior associate who continues to develop his reputation for Cayman Islands real estate work. He acts on a variety of residential and commercial development mandates, and regularly counsels clients on portfolio management. **Strengths:** "Tim is an excellent associate. Like his colleagues he is fantastic to deal with, knowledgeable and pleasant. He has a good grasp of Cayman real estate law, especially commercial leasing." "He is extremely approachable and responsive, and is efficient at handling multiple sale contracts." "Tim is proactive and points out potential business risks. He willingly goes the extra mile."

**Band 2**

**Bedell Cristin**

**What the team is known for** Bedell Cristin maintains a highly regarded Cayman real estate practice which offers a broad range of services. This encompasses advice on real estate financing as well as acquisitions and leasing. The team has considerable expertise relating to commercial and residential properties and is also highly experienced in acting for high net worth individuals.

**Strengths**

"Bedell Cristin has a strong team of professionals who are very well versed not only in the local market, but who also have expertise in global planning."

"Bedell Cristin is, without a doubt, one of the best law firms for property-related work on the island. The firm has years of experience handling multiple different scenarios."

"The team is very responsive and their service is

top-class. Bedell has a team of well-experienced lawyers which makes the transaction easy and simple to understand when faced with complex matters."

**Work highlights** Bedell Cristin represented Harbour Walk Limited in its successful sale of over 60 residential units, for a combined total purchase price of more than USD55 million.

**Notable practitioners**

**Ian Jamieson** leads the Cayman real estate practice at Bedell Cristin. He is a well-known figure with noteworthy experience overseeing both real estate finance transactions and the acquisition of Cayman real estate assets. Clients greatly appreciate his guidance on an array of high-value residential and commercial developments.

**Strengths:** "Ian is always available, provides an excellent service, and is extremely knowledgeable." "Ian always provides reliable, sensible and sound advice." "His level of service and expertise in the field is top tier."

**Band 3**

**Campbells**

**What the team is known for** Campbells is a Cayman-headquartered law firm with a compact and respected real estate department which advises clients on a wealth of property sales and acquisitions. It is also especially well versed in real estate lending and refinancing matters. The team offers experience relating to residential as well as commercial properties, and its expertise further extends to advising on development mandates.

**Strengths**

"Campbells have a good understanding of commercial law."

"The real estate team is highly responsive and a pleasure to work with."

**Work highlights** Campbells acted for Butterfield Bank on a wide variety of real estate finance mandates relating to commercial and residential properties.

**Notable practitioners**

**Lily Lee** impresses sources with her in-depth knowledge of residential and commercial property matters. She heads an experienced department and assists a broad range of clients, including high net worth individuals and banks, with acquisitions, financing and development work. **Strengths:** "Lily is one of the best lawyers I have worked with. She possesses deep knowledge, combined with an unprecedented level of responsiveness." "Lily Lee is exceptional on all aspects of her work." "Lily is very knowledgeable and has great experience. She is also very engaging to work with, very quick at drafting and very efficient. She is a super consultant who always provides answers to clients' enquiries."

**Collas Crill**

**What the team is known for** Leading Channel Islands law firm Collas Crill has a well-established presence in the Cayman Islands, where its real estate team is especially noted for its work

overseeing residential property purchases on behalf of high net worth individuals. It is also well regarded for its advice on commercial real estate mandates and regularly acts as lenders' counsel on real estate financing matters.

#### Strengths

*"Collas can always be relied upon to handle very complex matters. They are very knowledgeable and solution-oriented."*

*"The firm's ability to meet near-impossible deadlines without compromising their accuracy makes them an essential part of the business we do."*

*"They are competent attorneys who have the interests of their clients at the centre of their work."*

*"They keep abreast of local law updates and real estate matters in Cayman."*

**Work highlights** Collas Crill advised a high net worth individual on their USD3.5 million purchase of several investment properties at Grand Harbour.

#### Notable practitioners

**Gina Berry** (see p.910) is a leading Cayman real estate lawyer who heads a strong team at Collas Crill. She is frequently sought out by developers and lenders for her expertise concerning high-end residential development projects and leasing transactions. **Strengths:** *"Gina is a consummate professional who goes above and beyond to ensure her clients are aware of all the intricacies and details of a transaction. She is extremely thorough, knowledgeable and experienced."* *"Gina is fantastic in dealing with all matters presented to her. Her in-depth knowledge and experience of the local market continues to prove a massive contribution to the success of our operations."* *"Gina is extremely solution-oriented, and her service and legal expertise are exceptional. We are in very safe hands with her on our team."* *"Gina has great turnaround time. She is 100% reliable; she's communicative, responsive, super-quick and attentive."*

#### Ritch & Conolly

**What the team is known for** Ritch & Conolly has been active in the Cayman Islands real estate market for over 30 years. The team represents many major clients in connection with high-end developments and purchases. It regularly acts on large-scale transactions involving luxury condominiums, residential properties and commercial real estate.

#### Notable practitioners

**Angus Charlton** is an experienced partner who is especially noted for his handling of residential real estate matters. He has further experience counselling real estate developers. **Strengths:** *"Angus is a very good attorney and is good to work with."*

### Band 4

#### Hive Law

**What the team is known for** Hive Law is a recently founded boutique with core strengths in construction, real estate and infrastructure. The team has experience advising high net worth individuals, banks and real estate developers. It is also frequently sought out by leading offshore law firms to provide counsel on real estate issues, and is further notable for its work conducted on behalf of the Cayman Islands Government.

#### Strengths

*"Hive Law has an impressive depth and breadth of experience across a wide range of real estate matters. Their team of professionals possesses an extensive understanding of residential and commercial, as well as specialised areas such as property development, investment, leasing and property management."*

*"Their responsiveness not only instils confidence in their clients, but also enables effective communication and swift resolution of legal issues."*

*"They respond in an extremely quick manner every single time, and know how to handle any situation."*

**Work highlights** Hive Law acted for Bronte Development regarding its construction of the Lacovia residential project located on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach.

#### Notable practitioners

**George Loutas** is highly regarded within the Cayman legal market, maintaining a broad real estate practice which encompasses property financing in addition to advice on high-end residential projects. **Strengths:** *"George is an outstanding real estate lawyer whose expertise and dedication have made a lasting impression on me. I have consistently been amazed by his exceptional legal acumen and unwavering commitment to his clients' success."* *"George is an incredible asset to our clients."*

#### HSM Chambers

**What the team is known for** HSM Chambers is a well-established law firm which maintains a compact but highly capable property team. Lawyers within the practice regular advise on the sale and purchase of both residential and commercial sites. The group is also particularly active on real estate finance work, representing an impressive list of local Caymanian banks.

#### Strengths

*"HSM Chambers are easy to work with and reply quickly."*

*"HSM Chambers has an extremely knowledgeable and diverse staff who can handle any matter."*

**Work highlights** HSM Chambers acted for

Proven Bank (formerly known as Fidelity Bank) on numerous real estate finance and planning matters.

#### Notable practitioners

**Linda DaCosta** leads the property team at HMS Chambers. She advises on all facets of real estate transactions, including with regard to the financing considerations, and in connection with leasing documentation.

#### Priestleys

**What the team is known for** Priestleys is a well-known Cayman law firm dealing with the full range of real estate matters. It assists clients with infrastructure projects and public-private partnerships, in addition to advising on residential and commercial real estate acquisitions and sales. The team also has expertise concerning landlord-tenant relations.

#### Strengths

*"My questions are dealt with almost instantly in most cases."*

**Work highlights** Priestleys advised CP Land Company on the development a 74-unit apartment complex in Grand Cayman and the subsequent sale of all individual units.

#### Notable practitioners

**Daniel Priestley** is well versed in a wide range of real estate transactions, with notable experience advising on the development of major commercial sites. **Nick Hemus** is an associate within the team who is well respected by members of the Cayman legal community. He acts on both commercial and residential property mandates, and his recent deal list includes a groundbreaking property purchase utilising cryptocurrency. **Strengths:** *"Nick is a very proficient practitioner."*

### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Ben Eagleson** is a rising star who possesses wide-ranging expertise in commercial and residential development mandates, and who has further capabilities in financing and corporate structuring. He acts for both lenders and developers on transactions in this space.

#### Strengths:

*"Ben is a very knowledgeable attorney."*

**Stuart Rowe** heads the real estate department at McGrath Tonner. He advises on the full spectrum of real estate acquisitions, disposals and financing work, with a client base that includes financial institutions and high net worth individuals.

## Leaders' Profiles in Cayman Islands

### BELL, Natalie

Collas Crill, Grand Cayman  
*Featured in Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Natalie is a Partner in the Financial Services and Regulatory team and is based in Cayman. She advises on all aspects of Cayman corporate and commercial law including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and corporate reorganisations. Natalie specialises in advising investment funds, their managers and their onshore counsel on the structuring, formation, corporate governance and ongoing operational matters of Cayman and BVI investment funds. She also advises financial services clients on licensing, reporting obligations, regulatory reporting anti-money laundering and automatic exchange of information laws.

**Career:** Natalie joined Collas Crill having previously worked in the investment funds and regulatory team at another leading offshore firm in both the Cayman and BVI offices. Prior to this, she worked for Travers Smith and Eversheds (now Eversheds Sutherland) in the UK.

### BELLFIELD (NÉE LARDNER), Gemma

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
 13458151880  
 Gemma.Lardner@ogier.com  
*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate and Financial Services Disputes; Dispute Resolution; Enforcement of Judgments and Awards; Investigations and Regulatory Advice; Restructuring and Insolvency  
**Career:** Gemma is a highly regarded commercial litigator and restructuring and insolvency specialist. Gemma advises and represents Cayman-domiciled companies, directors, liquidators, creditors and shareholders in relation to non-contentious insolvency, restructuring and corporate recovery matters as well as contentious litigation and insolvency proceedings in the Grand Court and the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal. Her clients include Cayman-domiciled, PRC-operated and HKEX listed companies, both onshore and offshore insolvency practitioners, private equity funds, financial institutions and hedge funds. Gemma advises on a broad range of complex commercial and cross-border disputes including contentious insolvency proceedings, shareholder claims and corporate governance issues. She regularly advises and appears on behalf of both creditors and defendant companies in relation to creditors' winding up petitions, advises shareholders of Cayman-domiciled companies on winding up on the just and equitable ground; advises and appears for liquidators on sanction applications and other matters arising in relation to the liquidation estate, and advises fund managers and directors in relation to solvent and insolvent wind-downs. Gemma is part of Ogier's

multi-disciplinary Restructuring and Corporate Recovery team, specialising in formal insolvency procedures, statutory remedies, and investor and shareholder rights/actions, with experience in distressed funds and private equity. Admitted in: 2016 – Cayman Islands 2011 – New South Wales, Australia and High Court, Australia

**Professional Memberships:** Gemma is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association, the Recovery and Insolvency Specialists Association (Cayman) Limited (RISA), INSOL International, and the Australian Restructuring, Insolvency and Turn-around Association (ARITA). Gemma is also a member of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and the Co-Director of Events for the Cayman Islands IWIRC network.

### BERGSTROM, James

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
 +1 345 815 1855  
 james.bergstrom@ogier.com  
*Featured in Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Cayman local legal services; Corporate; Equity Capital Markets; Hedge Funds; Intellectual Property; Investment Funds; Listing Services; Managers and Sponsors; Notary Public; Offshore relocations – relocating your business; Offshore relocations – relocating your family; Private Equity; Real Estate; Real Estate Infrastructure and Energy Funds; Regulatory

**Career:** James is the principal architect of Ogier's Cayman funds practice and has operated in this market since 1991, forging strong links with managers and with funds partners at leading law firms in key onshore financial centres. He has acted in respect of establishing and structuring: – Open ended funds (including hedge) – Closed ended funds (including private equity, infrastructure, real estate, venture capital, publicly listed and trade funds) – Hybrid funds, funds of one and managed accounts – Special strategy funds (including credit funds) – Fund managers and sponsors (including profit sharing between principals employee incentive schemes, carried interest and joint venture arrangements) He also regularly advises on: – prospective investors, including LPs on proposed investments in investment funds (including due diligence and legal opinions) – on seed deals and strategic investor relations (including side letters) – investment funds on downstream investments – on fund re-domiciliation (into and out of the jurisdiction) – operators on corporate governance, fiduciary and regulatory matters – other service providers to investment funds fund managers and other service providers on contractual, regulatory, licensing requirements, outsourcing and cross border provision of financial services – on liquidity concerns, restructuring, funds and termination alternatives James joined Ogier's Cayman office

in 1991 and became a Partner in 1998. James has previously also worked in Ogier's Hong Kong office. He received his Bachelor of Law, with Honours, from the University of London in 1990.

**Professional Memberships:** James is prominent in the Cayman Islands community and previously held a number of senior positions including: – President of the Caymanian Bar Association – Council member of the Cayman Islands Stock Exchange – Chairman of the Cayman Islands Special Economic Zone Authority – Chairman of the Health Appeals Tribunal He is a member of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple of England and Wales as well as a Notary Public in the Cayman Islands.

### BERRY, Gina

Collas Crill, Grand Cayman  
 +1 (345) 914 9654  
 gina.berry@collascrill.com  
*Featured in Real Estate (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Gina is a Partner and heads the Real Estate team in Cayman. Gina's breadth of experience includes conveyancing and real property law, probate and estate administration, planning and development law, corporate and commercial law. She represents many of Cayman's "Class A" Banks and also conducts a full real estate practice servicing a wide range of international and local clients.

**Career:** Gina's name in the legal community is synonymous with the highest quality in client care. Gina's brand of excellence is well known especially in the Cayman Islands, which she has called home for more than 20 years. She maintains an unblemished reputation for accurately getting the job done, listening to and caring for her clients, seamlessly navigating tight timelines, bringing additional value to transactions and exceeding clients' expectations.

**Professional Memberships:** Gina is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association.

### BYERS, Martin

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
 martin.byers@ogier.com  
*Featured in Financial Services Regulation (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Economic Substance, Legal, Regulatory, Tax, Technology and Web3

**Career:** Martin advises financial institutions, multinational corporations, governments, public authorities, funds, sponsors, investment managers, administrators and other service providers on regulatory and compliance matters, including all regulatory aspects of the formation, management, operation and termination of companies and investment vehicles in the Cayman Islands. Martin is a regulatory specialist with extensive experience advising on a wide range of matters including licensing, registration and approval requirements, reporting and information exchange obligations (including those deriving from

FATCA, the Common Reporting Standard and CbCR), economic substance, beneficial ownership, sanctions, on-site compliance inspections, administrative fines and matters relating to anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism. Whilst Martin's practice focuses on the Cayman Islands, he also routinely acts on regulatory matters in the British Virgin Islands. Martin joined Ogier in 2021 from the regulatory practice of another leading offshore law firm. Prior to this, having trained and qualified as a UK solicitor at Slaughter and May and worked in the leveraged finance practices of two leading US law firms in London, Martin worked as a lawyer in the General Counsel's Division of the UK Financial Conduct Authority. Before qualifying as a lawyer, Martin worked as an analyst in the derivatives and structured finance group at Goldman Sachs. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Law and Sociology from the University of Warwick, a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of London and a Master of Studies (MSt) from the University of Cambridge. Admitted in: 2019 – Cayman Islands 2019 – British Virgin Islands 2015 – England and Wales (non-practising)

### Professional Memberships:

Martin is Co-Head of the Education and Research Committee of the Alternative Investment Management Association (AIMA) in the Cayman Islands.

### CAPEWELL, Christopher

Maples Group, George Town  
 +1 345 814 5666  
 Chris.Capewell@MAPLESAND-CALDER.com

*Featured in Financial Services Regulation (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Christopher is global head of Maples and Calder's Regulatory & Financial Services team and is based in the Maples Group's Cayman Islands office. His practice focuses on regulatory matters impacting asset managers, investment funds (both open and closed-ended), banks, administrators, family offices and high net worth individuals. Christopher regularly advises clients on a wide range of regulatory matters including FATCA, CRS, the Securities Investment Business Law, DAC6 / MDR, anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, Economic Substance, cross-border conduct of business advice and the OECD Country-by-Country Reporting regime. Christopher joined the Maples Group in 2007 and was elected as a partner in the Funds and Investment Management team in 2013. In 2019, Christopher was appointed as head of Maples and Calder's Cayman Islands Regulatory & Financial Services Group at the Maples Group. He previously worked as a tax lawyer for Clifford Chance in London and prior to that for Clayton Utz and Arthur Andersen in Australia

**CECERE, Rocco**

Collas Crill, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 914 9630  
rocco.cecere@collascrill.com

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Rocco is a Partner and heads up the Insolvency and Corporate Disputes team in Cayman. He is an experienced offshore commercial litigator, specialising in shareholder disputes, international insolvency and restructuring, and investment fund disputes. He has extensive experience conducting complex cross-border litigation, often involving fraud and asset tracing. Rocco leads Collas Crill's market-leading s.238 merger appraisal team and is a highly sought after and trusted advisor to shareholders in merger appraisal disputes. His clients include some of the world's leading investment managers and institutional shareholders. Rocco has unparalleled experience and expertise in merger appraisal litigation and has acted for shareholders in most of the major cases, including 51job, Inc., New Frontier Health Corporation, SINA Corporation, 58.com Limited, Changyou.com Ltd, eHi Car Services Ltd, Bitauto Holdings Limited, China Biologic Products Holdings, Inc., Nord Anglia Education, iKang Healthcare Group, Qunar Cayman Islands Ltd, Zhaopin Limited, and Kongzhong Corporation. He has also advised shareholders on numerous other Cayman Islands mergers which have not proceeded to litigation. Rocco regularly advises shareholders of Cayman Islands companies on a range of matters including disputes against investment funds, derivative actions, and just and equitable winding ups involving minority oppression. Rocco also regularly acts as Cayman Islands counsel in respect of United States securities actions brought by shareholders against Cayman Islands companies. In addition to his shareholder disputes practice, Rocco has a busy insolvency and commercial litigation practice. He acts for creditors, Cayman Islands liquidators and US SEC-appointed receivers.

**Career:** Prior to joining Collas Crill in 2019, Rocco spent six years at another leading law firm in the Cayman Islands. Before this, he gained valuable practical investment fund experience acting as European Head of Legal Affairs for one of the world's largest hedge fund service providers.

**Professional Memberships:** Rocco is a member of the Cayman Islands Law Society, RISA Cayman and INSOL International.

**COLEGATE, Jennifer**

Collas Crill, Grand Cayman

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Jennifer is a Partner in the Insolvency and Corporate Disputes team and is based in Cayman. She is a commercial litigator specialising in cross-border insolvency and restructuring. Jennifer has extensive experience advising on various issues arising in complex cross-border insolvencies,

most notably arising from her engagement by the provisional liquidators to a number of Lehman Brothers entities in the Asia-Pacific region, and more recently in connection with the liquidation of Caledonian Bank Limited. She has assisted in advising on restructurings of SIVs, RMBS vehicles and other structured products adversely affected by the financial and liquidity crises touching on a range of jurisdictions. Related to her insolvency work, Jennifer has regularly advised on matters concerning asset-tracing and recovery. In addition to her time in private practice, Jennifer has spent extended periods of time on secondment to banking clients in both London and Hong Kong. Notable engagements: – Advising the liquidators of nine Lehman Brothers Hong Kong entities on a range of issues and reported cases arising (2009-2016) – Advising the Vietnamese ship building corporation, Vinashin, on issues concerning an English law scheme of arrangement – Advising the receivers in restructuring the Golden Key. SIV – Advising the liquidity providers of the Cheyne Finance SIV – Advising the liquidator of New Cap Reinsurance on an application under s426 Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of instigating clawback actions. **Career:** Prior to moving to Cayman, Jennifer worked at Mayer Brown JSM, Hong Kong in their Asian restructuring team. Before moving to Hong Kong in 2012, Jennifer was a senior associate in London specialising in contentious insolvency matters, having joined Mayer Brown International LLP in 2007 following completion of pupillage at South Square Chambers.

**CRANE, Adam**

Baker & Partners, George Town  
adamcrane@bakerandpartners.com

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** As a Partner in the Cayman Islands, Adam focuses on complex and cross-border insolvency & restructuring, asset recovery, and commercial litigation matters. Who's Who Legal recently recognised Adam as a Global Leader in Restructuring and Insolvency 2024 and 2023, as a Global Leader in Asset Recovery in 2023, and as a Future Leader (Partners) in Commercial Litigation in 2023. Adam is experienced in offshore and cross-border proceedings involving collapsed or distressed hedge funds and private equity funds, cryptocurrency exchanges and other digital asset enterprises, shareholder and other corporate disputes, and white-collar/civil fraud proceedings. Adam is often consulted by parties for his expertise in contingent creditor claims in Cayman Islands liquidation proceedings and his expertise in utilising insolvency tools to facilitate asset recovery efforts.

**Professional Memberships:** In 2020, Adam was inducted into the prestigious International Insolvency Institute (III) – NextGen Leadership Program as a future leader in international insolvency and serves as Chair of the Executive

Committee. In 2023, he was appointed as Co-Chair of the III's Regional Committee for the United States, Canada and the Caribbean, and as Co-Chair of the American Bankruptcy Institute's International Committee.

**DAVISON, Angus**

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1788

angus.davison@ogier.com

*Featured in Corporate & Finance (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Asset Finance, Banking and Finance, Corporate, Derivatives, Equity Capital Markets, Fund Finance, Hedge Funds, Investment Funds, Islamic Finance, Listing Services, Managers and Sponsors, Mergers and Acquisitions, Natural Resources, Private Equity, Regulatory, Restructuring and Corporate Recovery, Structured Finance **Career:** Angus has a broad corporate finance practice, advising many of our investment funds and other clients on financing transactions, IPOs, mergers and acquisitions (public and private), regulatory obligations and non-contentious restructuring. A partner in Ogier's Cayman Islands legal practice, Angus has extensive experience providing advice on corporate and finance transactions involving Cayman Islands vehicles, with a particular focus on the financial services industry. Angus is a member of Ogier's Executive Board, responsible for providing strategic leadership to the continued development of Ogier's legal services, ensuring that the firm's growth priorities are aligned with client requirements. He is also a director of Ogier Global, Ogier's corporate and fiduciary division and was previously global head of Ogier's Banking & Finance and Corporate & Commercial service lines. Admitted in: 2005 – Cayman Islands 2001 – New South Wales, Australia (non practising)

**DEAN, Sheryl**

Maples Group, George Town

+1 345 814 5294

sheryl.dean@maples.com

*Featured in Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Sheryl is head of Maples and Calder's Funds & Investment Management team in the Maples Group's Cayman Islands office. She specialises in private equity fund structures and investments and represents a wide range of sponsors, from large institutions to boutique and start up investment managers, advising on the structuring, formation and operation of private funds and advising on downstream transactions and portfolio investments. Sheryl advises sponsors on their carry allocation and management vehicles. She also works on a number of related corporate transactions, including consortium deals and joint ventures, co-investments, buy-outs and restructurings. Sheryl joined the Maples Group in 2012, having been a partner at an international law firm in the Cayman Islands. Prior to her move to the Cayman Islands, she worked in the corporate and M&A teams at

Slaughter and May and Gibson Dunn, respectively, in London. Sheryl began her legal career in the corporate team of Russell McVeagh in New Zealand.

**DORS, Matthew**

Collas Crill, Grand Cayman

+1 345 914 9631

matthew.dors@collascrill.com

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Matthew is a Partner in the Insolvency and Corporate Disputes team and is based in the Cayman Islands specialising in high-value and high-profile cross-border commercial litigation, insolvency and restructuring. Matthew has particular expertise in complex cross-border insolvencies and restructurings and regularly advises and represents liquidators and stakeholders in relation to contentious and non-contentious matters, including seeking court assistance for foreign insolvency proceedings. He has regularly advised financial institutions in relation to fraud and asset recovery matters (including obtaining urgent relief such as freezing injunctions and disclosure orders).

**Career:** Prior to moving to Cayman in 2013, Matthew practiced for a number of years as a Barrister in England and Wales, with a focus on complex trust, insolvency and property disputes. He has extensive advocacy experience, having regularly appeared in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

**Professional Memberships:**

Matthew is a member of the Cayman Islands Law Society, RISA Cayman and INSOL International.

**FOX, Jennifer**

Ogier, Grand Cayman

+1 345 815 1879

jennifer.fox@ogier.com

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate and Financial Services Disputes; Dispute Resolution; Enforcement of Judgments and Awards; Fraud and Asset Tracing; Funds Disputes; Investigations and Regulatory Advice; Restructuring and Insolvency; Trusts Advisory Group

**Career:** Jennifer regularly appears in the Financial Services Division of the Grand Court. She acts for all participants in the Cayman Islands financial services market including insolvency and other office holders; investment managers and directors of Cayman vehicles; creditors, shareholders and limited partners; and all other parties to large scale commercial; fraud, and insolvency litigation. Jennifer's fraud and asset tracing work is extensive. Of late she has been acting in several substantial fraud claims involving private equity funds established as exempted limited partnerships, which have resulted in numerous important judgments for the jurisdiction, and in respect of disputes concerning crypto and fintech assets. She also has considerable experience obtaining all forms of interim relief including freezing orders, Norwich Pharmacal orders and the appointment

of equitable receivers. Jennifer is part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Restructuring and Insolvency Recovery team. She is experienced in corporate restructuring, distressed investment funds, and formal insolvency procedures.

**Professional Memberships:** Society of Trust and Estates Practitioners (full member) Overseas Member of the Chancery Bar Association Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners' Association Honourable Society of the Inner Temple American Bankruptcy Institute Restructuring and Insolvency Specialists Association (a committee member) INSOL International IWIRC (Vice Chair of the Cayman Islands Network and Caribbean Director on the International Board)

**HEINICKE, James**

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1768

james.heinicke@ogier.com

*Featured in Corporate & Finance (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Asset Finance, Banking and Finance, CAYLUX fund finance, Corporate, Debt Capital Markets, Derivatives, ESG - Environmental Social and Governance, Fund Finance, GDPR, Leveraged Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Regulatory, Restructuring and Corporate Recovery, Structured Finance, Sustainable Finance

**Career:** James is a partner in our banking and finance team in the Cayman Islands. He is the head of Ogier's Fund Finance practice and has extensive experience on a wide range of finance and corporate matters acting for financial institutions, private equity sponsors, hedge funds and corporates. James is also a member of Ogier's Latin American team and frequently acts for clients located in the region. James is an experienced transactional lawyer who manages a broad range of finance and corporate matters. James is head of Ogier's Fund Finance practice and part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Private Equity team. He regularly advises lenders and borrowers on all types of fund financing matters and, in particular, has significant experience on subscription and capital call financings and fund-of-fund facilities. James also has a very active Latin American practice and he regularly advises banks, funds and corporates located in the region on a wide range of finance, regulatory, corporate and restructuring matters. He frequently represents international banks and other clients on licensing applications to the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority and ongoing regulatory requirements and has extensive experience acting in connection with the acquisition, disposal and restructuring of regulated entities in the Cayman Islands. James is also part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Restructuring & Corporate Recovery team. He specialises in refinancing and corporate reorganisation. With a focus on non-contentious restructuring his experience includes advising stakeholders on debt to equity swaps, corporate restructuring, distressed

transactions and security enforcement. He received his Bachelor of Sciences from the University of Warwick in 2001, his Post-graduate Diploma in Law from Nottingham Law School in 2002 and his Diploma in Legal Practice from Nottingham Law School in 2003. James is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association and the Law Society of England and Wales.

**Professional Memberships:** James is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association and the Law Society of England and Wales.

**HUCKLE, Joanne**

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1895

joanne.huckle@ogier.com

*Featured in Financial Services Regulation (Cayman Islands), Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate; Fund Finance; Hedge Funds; Investment Funds; Managers and Sponsors; Mergers and Acquisitions; Private Equity; Real Estate Infrastructure and Energy Funds; Regulatory; Sustainable Investing and ESG; Sustainable Investing and Impact Funds

**Career:** Joanne advises hedge funds, hybrid funds and private equity funds, top tier investment managers, PE sponsors, spin-off and start-up managers, fund administrators and the full range of fund service providers on fund launches, ongoing legal and regulatory compliance and termination. She also has extensive experience advising on a broad range of international corporate transactions including mergers and acquisitions, IPOs, rights issues, private placements, downstream private equity investments and restructurings. "Knowledgeable about Cayman Islands law and very responsive" Joanne, part of Ogier's investment funds, regulatory and corporate team in the Cayman Islands, advises many of the team's most prestigious clients. Joanne is recognized in the Legal 500 Directory as a "Leading Individual" and is regularly praised by clients for being responsive, knowledgeable about Cayman Islands law and able to grapple with unusual fund structures. Corporate clients say that Joanne is "effective and responsive in the face of tight timelines, changing plans and unusual issues". Joanne advises hedge funds, hybrid funds and private equity funds, top tier investment managers, PE sponsors, spin-off and start-up managers, fund administrators and the full range of fund service providers on fund launches, investment management formation and ongoing legal and regulatory compliance and termination. Joanne is a funds regulatory expert, with a particular specialism in the Cayman Islands anti-money laundering regime; Joanne is a member of Cayman Finance's AML specialist body. As part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Private Equity team, Joanne has extensive experience in fund formation and capital raising. Her practice also includes LP advisory work, regularly representing, and negotiating on behalf of, institutional investors that are investing

in Cayman Islands private equity fund structures. Joanne also has extensive experience advising on a broad range of international corporate transactions including mergers and acquisitions, IPOs, rights issues, private placements, sukuk issues and restructurings. Joanne advised Goldman Sachs International as arranger and lead manager on the issue of its first ever sukuk, which raised \$500 million. Joanne joined Ogier from Hogan Lovells' Corporate Group in London. During her time at Hogan Lovells, Joanne was seconded to the Hong Kong office and to Lloyds Banking Group, where she oversaw and facilitated The Bank of Scotland banking transfer. Joanne holds a Master of Arts in Jurisprudence from Oxford University (Pembroke College) and obtained her Diploma in Legal Practice with distinction. Joanne is a member of the Cayman Islands Financial Services Legislation Sub-Committee, is on the Board of the Education Committee of 100 Women in Finance, served on the Hedge Funds Care Committee of Hope and is a regular speaker at, or organizer of, industry events and conferences.

**Professional Memberships:**

Joanne is a member of the Cayman Islands Financial Services Legislation Sub-Committee, is on the Board of the Education Committee of 100 Women in Finance, served on the Hedge Funds Care Committee of Hope, and is a regular speaker at, or organizer of, industry events and conferences.

**KISH, Marc**

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1790

marc.kish@ogier.com

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Banking Disputes; Corporate and Financial Services Disputes; Crypto Disputes; Dispute Resolution; Enforcement of Judgments and Awards; Fraud and Asset Tracing; International Arbitration; Regulatory; Restructuring and Insolvency; Section 238 Shareholder Appraisal Rights; Shareholder and Valuation Disputes

**Career:** Marc is Ogier's Global Head of Dispute Resolution, specialising in contentious restructuring and insolvency proceedings, commercial litigation, funds disputes and financial services claims involving fraud and breach of duty. He is also part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Restructuring and Insolvency and Private Equity teams. Marc's practice focuses on the restructuring and financial recovery of distressed Cayman Islands entities and offers commercial solutions to creditors, shareholders and beneficiaries of entities threatened with insolvency. He regularly advises managers, directors, general partners, office holders and stakeholders as to the options available to them in cross-border insolvency, and as to the interplay between Cayman and onshore restructurings and insolvency proceedings. He also represents trustees, protectors and beneficiaries in relation to their rights under offshore trust arrangements.

and shareholders of distressed funds in connection with disputes arising out, or in anticipation of, events of default or unpaid redemptions or capital calls. Marc regularly contributes to legislative subcommittees advising the Cayman Islands government as to the desirability and effect of proposed legislation.

**Professional Memberships:** Marc is a Fellow of INSOL International.

**KRUGER, Bradley**

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 516 2198

bradley.kruger@ogier.com

*Featured in Corporate & Finance (Cayman Islands), Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Banking and Finance, Corporate, Digital Blockchain and Fintech, Hedge Funds, Investment Funds, Listed Funds Liquid Strategies and UCITS, Listing Services, Managers and Sponsors, Mergers and Acquisitions, Natural Resources, Private Equity, Real Estate Infrastructure and Energy Funds, Regulatory, Restructuring and Insolvency, Structured Finance, Venture Capital and Special Strategy Funds

**Career:** Bradley Kruger is the lead partner of Ogier's Corporate team in the Cayman Islands. He advises on IPOs, SPACs, M&A transactions and joint ventures, as well as investment fund formation, regulation, governance, restructuring and terminations. He is part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Private Equity team, specialising in acquisitions and disposals made by private equity funds, including the structuring of vehicles for these purposes, and the exit of investments through IPOs. Brad also co-leads the firm's Technology and Web3 team in the Cayman Islands, working with blockchain companies, token issuers, technology companies and cryptocurrency fund managers on a regular basis. Brad is a leading advisor in the offshore space and has been consistently recognised by IFLR1000, Chambers Global and Legal 500 for several years running. Prior to joining Ogier in 2006, Brad practiced at Fraser Milner Casgrain in Ontario (2002-2006) and Shearman & Sterling in California (2001). He received his Bachelor of Environmental Studies from York University, Ontario, in 1995, Master of Business Administration from Schulich School of Business, Ontario, in 1999 and Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School, Ontario, in 1999. Brad is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association, the Law Society of Ontario and the State Bar of California. He is also a member of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada and serves as a trustee of the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce Pension Plan.

**LEES, Elisabeth**

Claritas Legal, George Town  
001 345 929 0668

elisabeth@claritaslegal.com

*Featured in Financial Services Regulation (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Elisabeth is Head of Regulatory Law at Claritas and advises

and represents clients on a range of financial services regulatory matters including anti-money laundering, counter terrorist, counter proliferation financing and targeted financial sanctions at the entity and country level as well as Business Crime. Advice includes remediating breaches, enforcement matters, corporate liability, responses to production orders and self disclosure. Elisabeth sits as Deputy Chair of the Health Appeals Tribunal. <https://claritaslegal.com/about/elisabeth-lee/>

**Career:** Elisabeth has unparalleled experience in the area of financial services regulation, having served as the National Coordinator to the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Group for which she was awarded a Certificate and Badge of Honour for Legal Services in 2022. Her experience in criminal law as a barrister in London and later as Senior Crown Counsel (International Cooperation) in the Cayman Islands enables her to provide expert advice on criminal liability. Elisabeth holds an LLM in Public International Law (Distinction) and received the University of London Georg Schwarzenberger Prize for Outstanding Achievement in International Public Law.

**Professional Memberships:** International Bar Association Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

**Publications:** Regulatory Enforcement, Developments in the Cayman Islands (IELR Vol 39, Issue 5, 196).

**Personal:** Elisabeth enjoys all outdoor activities including running, swimming, biking, rollerblading and paddleboarding.

#### LEONTSINIS, Stephen

Collas Crill, Grand Cayman  
1 345 914 9605

[stephen.leontsinis@collascrill.com](mailto:stephen.leontsinis@collascrill.com)

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Stephen is Managing Partner of our Cayman office and global head of the Insolvency and Corporate Disputes team. He has a demonstrated history of advocacy in the practice of corporate and commercial litigation, with an emphasis on offshore insolvency and restructuring of companies. Stephen is qualified in South Africa, England and Wales, Cayman and BVI. Stephen's practice has a strong focus on company law including corporate insolvency; schemes of arrangements; capital reductions; shareholder disputes; director's liability; international asset tracing; the enforcement of foreign judgments; worldwide Mareva injunctions, Anton Piller orders, and Norwich Pharmacal orders. Stephen has significant contentious litigation experience arising from the representation of both liquidators, shareholders and creditors of companies and hedge funds including the claw back of fraudulent conveyances and undue preferences, allegations of investment fraud and investment manager disputes. Since he began heading up our team of Cayman litigators, Stephen has grown the team from two to eight lawyers, all with a

strong background in insolvency and restructuring matters. Prior to joining the firm Stephen spent two and a half years in Miami as a member of a boutique litigation firm in the United States which focused on cross border insolvency and trust disputes.

**Career:** Stephen was called as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa in 2003 and has subsequently qualified as a solicitor-advocate of the High Court of England and Wales and a solicitor-advocate of the Supreme Court of the Eastern Caribbean. Stephen was called to the Cayman Islands Bar in January 2009 and BVI Bar in 2013.

#### LEVERS, Christopher

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1747

[christopher.levers@ogier.com](mailto:christopher.levers@ogier.com)

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate and Financial Services Disputes, Dispute Resolution, Enforcement of Judgments and Awards, Fraud and Asset Tracing, Funds Disputes, Investigations and Regulatory Advice, Restructuring and Insolvency, Section 238 Shareholder Appraisal Rights, Trusts Advisory Group

**Career:** Chris is a partner in Ogier's multi-disciplinary Dispute Resolution team in the Cayman Islands. He specialises in contentious and non-contentious restructuring and insolvency proceedings as well as having significant experience with contentious trust disputes, commercial litigation and fund claims involving fraud and breach of duty. He routinely appears before all levels of the Cayman Islands Courts including the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal and the Privy Council. Chris has acted in a number of leading cases in the jurisdiction, including: -Pearson v Primeo - Culross Global SPC v Strategic Turnaround - Braga v Equity Trust - In the matter of Torchlight Fund LP, Torchlight GP v Millinium Asset Pty et al - AHAB v SICL et al (the most significant fraud trial heard in Cayman)

**Professional Memberships:** Chris is a member of the Cayman Islands Practitioners Association, the Recovery and Insolvency Specialists Association (Cayman) Limited and INSOL International.

**Publications:** Chris has contributed to a number of publications including INSOL World, International Corporate Rescue, Lexis Nexis, South Square Digest and STEP Journal and has co-authored the Cayman Islands chapter of "Art of the Pre-Pack" published by Global Restructuring Review.

#### MEIGH, Tina

Maples Group, George Town  
+1 345 814 5242

[tina.meigh@maples.com](mailto:tina.meigh@maples.com)

*Featured in Corporate & Finance (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Tina is global head of Maples and Calder's Finance team and is based in the Maples Group's Cayman Islands office. She leads the Fund Finance practice and also has extensive experience in all aspects of banking, derivatives and securitisations. Tina

represents hedge funds, private equity funds and banks on fund finance and other lending transactions, bank products, deal structures and on all types of secured transactions. She advises a large number of international associations and financial institutions on derivatives and issues surrounding related collateral packages in the context of insolvency in the Cayman Islands. She also has significant experience of general corporate and commercial matters and the establishment of offshore investment funds.

#### MELOY, Jonathon

Maples Group, George Town  
+1 345 814 5412

[jonathon.meloy@maples.com](mailto:jonathon.meloy@maples.com)

*Featured in Corporate & Finance (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Jonathon is head of Maples and Calder's Finance practice in the Maples Group's Cayman Islands office. He is also co-head of the firm's Asset Finance practice and has extensive experience of international capital markets and corporate finance transactions. He advises on all types of aircraft finance structures, with a particular focus on aircraft portfolio securitisations, large leasing platform establishments (including partnerships with fund sponsor investors), and on-and off-balance sheet commercial aircraft finance and leasing. In addition, Jonathon regularly acts on fund finance transactions (for both lenders and borrowers, including capital commitment subscription financing), as well as structured finance matters including CLOs and debt funds. Jonathon also advises on a wide range of general corporate and commercial deals, including restructurings, joint ventures and M&A transactions, and debt and equity listings on the Cayman Islands Stock Exchange. Jonathon joined the Maples Group in 2008 and was elected as a partner in 2014. He previously worked for Slaughter and May in London. In 2021, Jonathon was recognised by Airline Economics as a mentor in the aviation industry.

#### PEARSON, Katie

Claritas Legal, George Town  
3455162986

[katie@claritaslegal.com](mailto:katie@claritaslegal.com)

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Katie is a highly experienced Cayman Islands litigator, whose clients include top law firms in Hong Kong, the PRC, the US and the UK, venture capital funds and Cayman Islands insolvency practitioners. Katie's practice encompasses the full spectrum of Cayman litigation and insolvency work. She has a particular focus on fraud and asset-tracing work, and shareholder disputes. Katie co-founded Claritas in June 2022 in order to provide clients with the benefit of almost two decades experience in global law firms in the UK and the Cayman Islands, whilst also providing the flexibility, personal service and costs-savings that result from operating a low cost model. Katie's web

bio is available at <https://claritaslegal.com/about/katie-pearson/>.

**Career:** Katie began her legal career in London where she trained at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, qualifying in 2004, and practised at leading fraud litigation firm, Peters & Peters, before moving to the Cayman Islands in 2009, where she practised with Appleby and then Harneys before founding Claritas in 2022.

#### Professional Memberships:

Cayman Islands Restructuring and Insolvency Specialists Association (Education Committee member) International Women in Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation International Bar Association

#### REYNOLDS, Rachael

Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1865

[rachael.reynolds@ogier.com](mailto:rachael.reynolds@ogier.com)

*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Banking Disputes, Corporate and Financial Services Disputes, Dispute Resolution, Enforcement of Judgments and Awards, Fraud and Asset Tracing, Funds Disputes, International Arbitration, Investigations and Regulatory Advice, Restructuring and Insolvency, Shareholder and Valuation Disputes, Trusts Advisory Group, Trusts Disputes

**Career:** Rachael is Global Senior Partner at Ogier, based in the Cayman Islands Dispute Resolution team. She has particular expertise in contentious trust matters, fund disputes and restructuring and insolvency and is a part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Restructuring and Insolvency team. Her practice regularly involves fraud and international asset tracing claims. Rachael was named Offshore Litigator of the Year at the Citywealth IFC Awards 2020 and Advisor of the Year in the Wealthbriefing European Awards 2020. Rachael is also part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Private Equity team. She specialises in PE fund disputes, and has acted as an expert in international arbitration proceedings concerning Cayman PE structures. Rachael was appointed QC in August 2021. Rachael's recent cases include: Acting for the investors and conflict director of Neoma Private Equity Fund IV (formerly APEF IV) in their recovery action arising out of the liquidation of the Abraaj Group. Abraaj was the largest private equity structure in the Middle East, with \$14bn in stated assets prior to its collapse. The Group was placed into provisional liquidation in 2018 and went into official liquidation in 2019. Ogier is advising the investors in the largest fund in the Group. Acting for the trustees of a complex multi-billion dollar STAR trust restructuring. Acting for the executor of a large Cayman estate, involving contentious and non-contentious aspects of the administration. Acting for HSBC as trustee in contentious trust proceedings in 3 jurisdictions, including proceedings in Cayman in which the Court handed down an important

precedent setting decision concerning forum for administration clauses and gave guidance on the public policy of the Cayman Islands in the context of enforcement of judgments concerning Cayman trusts. Advising the Joint Provisional Liquidators on the restructuring of Ocean Rig – the Cayman Islands’ largest ever successful restructuring and one of the largest globally. The restructuring became effective within 6 months of the appointment of the JPLs, and resulted in an exchange by creditors of approximately \$3.7 billion of debt for new equity. Rachael provided expert evidence on Cayman law in the associated Chapter 15 proceedings in the US. Acting for the liquidators of Ardent, having represented the petitioning directors in the winding up proceedings. She successfully appeared on behalf of the liquidators in an anti-suit injunction following hostile, incompatible action taken by creditors in another jurisdiction. The case involves Chapter 15 proceedings, asset tracing and fraud claims. Advising investors in relation to the Abraaj Holdings collapse. Acting in a clawback claim against a fund manager for Ennismore Fund Management. Ogier acted for the successful Defendant through to final appeal. The matter was ultimately decided by the UK Privy Council. Ogier is now instructed in relation to ancillary claims relating to an injunction which Ennismore obtained in 2009. Acting for a service provider in proceedings related to the liquidation of the Platinum funds, involving Cayman and Chapter 15 proceedings. Acting for the Executors of estates worth c.75m in issues arising in the administration – including construction dispute, tax issues and disclosure applications. Giving expert evidence on Cayman Islands law in foreign courts and arbitrations. Advice in relation to private equity shareholder and investor disputes. Unfair prejudice and derivative/double-derivative actions. Advice in relation to, and assisting, activist shareholders. Claims against fund service providers including directors, managers, investment advisors, custodians and auditors. Rachael joined Ogier in 2007 and became a Partner in 2013. Prior to this, Rachael practised at Clyde & Co. in London and at the English Bar. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence from Oxford University in the United Kingdom in 1998 and completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law, London in 1999. She is a contributing author to International Asset Tracing in Insolvency,

Oxford University Press, 2010. Rachael is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association and the Bar of England and Wales. Admitted in: 2021 – Inner Bar of the Cayman Islands 2007 – Cayman Islands 1999 – England and Wales (non practising)

**ROGERS, Nick**  
Ogier, Grand Cayman  
+1 345 815 1844  
nick.rogers@ogier.com

*Featured in Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate; Investment Funds; Managers and Sponsors; Mergers and Acquisitions; Private Equity; Real Estate Infrastructure and Energy Funds; Technology and Web3; Hedge Funds; Sustainable Investing and ESG; Notary Public; Economic Substance

**Career:** Nick has been practising Cayman law since 2001 and specialises in private equity funds, hedge funds, cryptocurrency work and venture capital transactions. Nick is part of Ogier’s multi-disciplinary Private Equity team and advises private equity sponsors and investors. Nick has particular expertise in advising hedge funds and hedge fund managers on structuring, regulation and governance. Nick began his career in the corporate finance department at Clifford Chance in London. He joined Ogier in the Cayman Islands in 2001, before relocating to Hong Kong in 2003 with another Cayman Islands firm, where he became a partner in 2005. Nick returned to the Cayman Islands in 2006 and re-joined Ogier as a partner in 2010. Nick specialises in: – Advising hedge funds and hedge fund managers on structuring, formation, regulation and corporate governance matters – Advising private equity sponsors on the structuring and formation of closed-ended investment vehicles – Advising on ongoing fund operation, including regulatory compliance – Advising institutional, strategic and seed investors into investment funds – Advising on bespoke investment fund products, such as shipping, residential real estate, clean tech and cryptocurrency – Advising on joint ventures, shareholders’ agreements, and share and asset acquisitions and disposals Some of Nick’s recent transactions include: – Ongoing representation of leading US litigation finance firm in respect of its investment portfolio – Advised leading secondaries fund sponsor on the establishment and closing of its sixth fund, with capital commitments of US\$5.5 billion – Ongoing representation

of leading US event-driven manager with US\$16 billion under management in relation to operational and corporate governance aspects of its hedge fund portfolio – Advised leading healthcare fund manager on establishment of private equity structure with philanthropic social component – Represented a European bank on its proposed investment into a private equity fund focused on small and medium-sized enterprises in Ireland – Advised on the first Bitcoin fund registered with the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority

**Professional Memberships:** Nick is a Director of Cayman Finance and a member of the Cayman financial services legislative committee.

**SAVAGE, Justin**  
Ogier, Grand Cayman  
justin.savages@ogier.com

*Featured in Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate; Fund Finance; Hedge Funds; Investment Funds; Mergers and Acquisitions; Private Equity; Real Estate Infrastructure and Energy Funds; Regulatory; Sustainable Investing and Impact Funds; Sustainable Investing and ESG

**Career:** Justin is a partner in Ogier’s Investment Funds team and is based in Ogier’s Cayman Islands office. He specialises in the establishment of open-ended and closed-ended hedge funds and advises on a wide range of structuring, formation, regulatory, corporate governance and ongoing operational matters. Justin is a part of Ogier’s multi-disciplinary Private Equity team and also has significant experience advising companies, prospective investors and shareholders on a broad range of cross-jurisdictional corporate matters, including public and private M&A, restructurings and joint ventures. Prior to joining Ogier in 2013, Justin practiced in the corporate finance group of Herbert Smith Freehills in London (2006-2011) and Tokyo (2011-2013). Justin received a Masters from the University of Edinburgh, and his Diploma in Law from the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice. He is admitted to practice in the Cayman Islands and England & Wales and is a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association.

**SUBIOTTO, Giorgio**  
Ogier, Grand Cayman  
1 345 815 1872  
giorgio.subioto@ogier.com

*Featured in Investment Funds (Cayman Islands)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate; Hedge Funds; Investment Funds; Managers

and Sponsors; Notary Public; Private Equity; Private Wealth; Regulatory; Trusts Advisory Group

**Career:** Giorgio is co-head of Ogier’s Global Latin American practice and has been a partner at Ogier since 2006. A large part of Giorgio’s practice is investment funds, where he works on the whole life cycle of hedge funds and closed-ended funds – private equity, venture capital, real estate – including guiding funds through stress points, such as during the 2008 financial crisis. Giorgio also acts for investors into funds and advises on the establishment and ongoing regulatory compliance of Cayman-based investment managers, investment advisers, distributors and arrangers. His corporate practice is heavily focused on venture capital transactions, including the establishment of Cayman holding companies to support start-ups in their capital raising and international expansion, working with them on seed and later rounds of financing, and working with them on exits, either through M&A acquisition or IPO. He also represents investors into these VC structures. Other corporate work includes SPAC and de-SPAC transactions, general joint venture work and advising boards in respect of take-overs and mergers. On the private wealth side, Giorgio since 2008 has been one of the principal architects of Ogier’s Cayman-based Private Wealth team. He now focuses on investment fund and corporate transactions that form part of private wealth planning and also advises clients on the full range of private wealth matters alongside Ogier’s trusts and estates team. Before joining Ogier, Giorgio practiced at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York (1998 to 2002), Pinheiro Neto – Advogados in São Paulo (1994 to 1995) and Linklaters in London and Paris (1992 to 1994 and 1995 to 1997). Giorgio received his Diploma de Estudios Hispánicos from the University of Málaga, Spain, in 1986; his Bachelor of Law with Honours from the University of London, King’s College, in 1990; Maîtrise en Droit, avec mention, from the University of Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, in the same year; and Master of Law from University of Michigan Law School at Ann Arbor in 1992.

**Professional Memberships:** Giorgio is a member of STEP and is a Notary Public in the Cayman Islands and a member of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association, the Law Society of England and Wales and the New York Bar Association.